F5

FOOD FISH SITUATION & OUTLOOK

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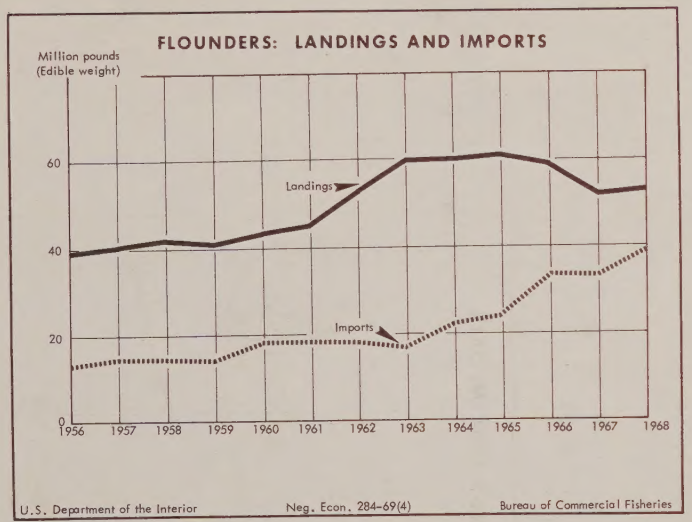
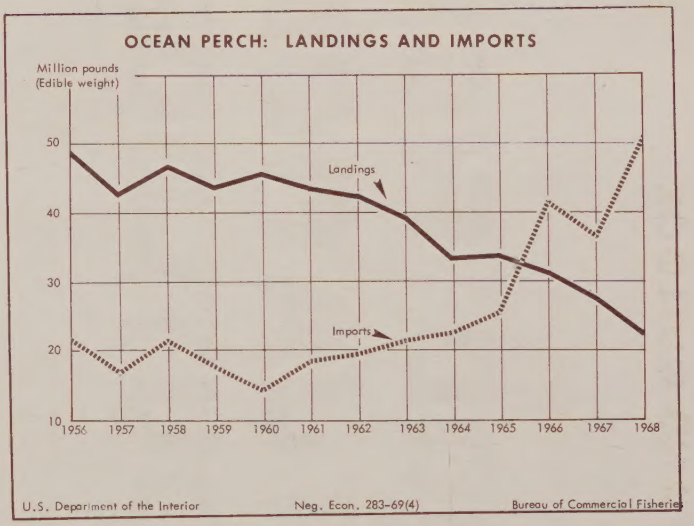


Figure 1



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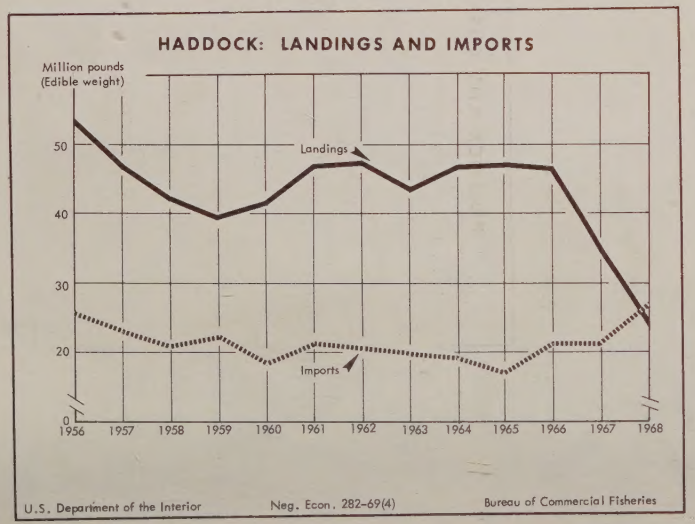

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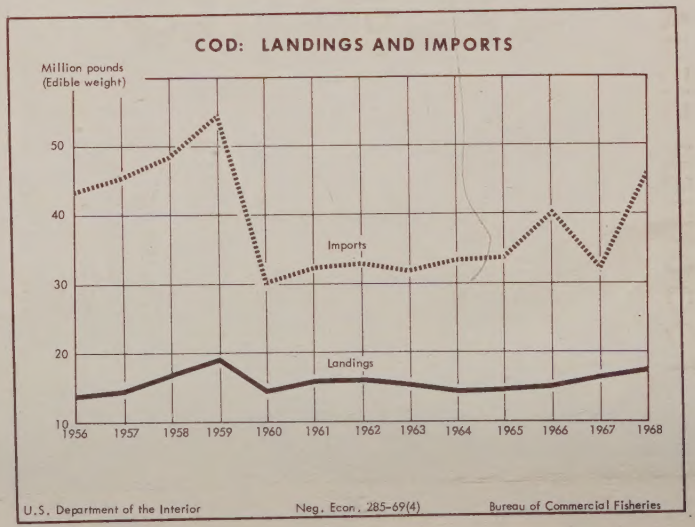

Figure 4

FOOD FISH SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Approved by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Outlook and Situation Board,
May 9, 1969

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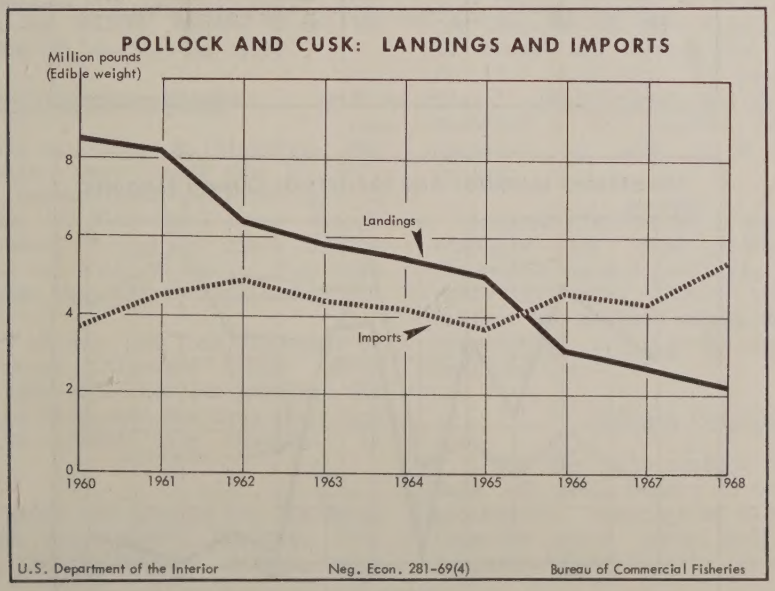

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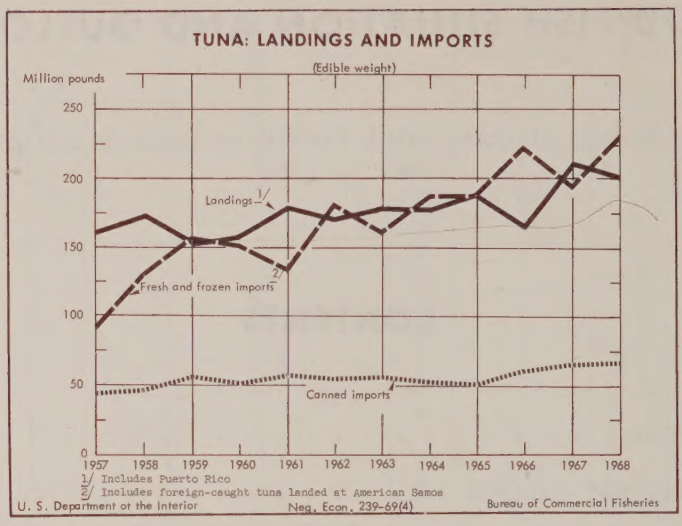

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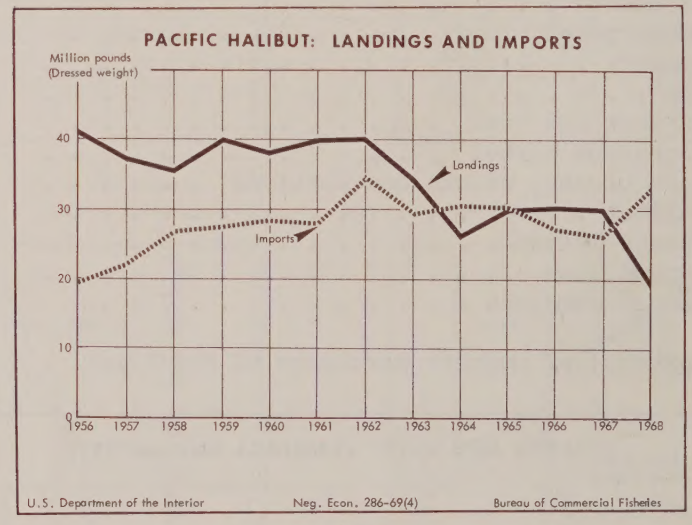

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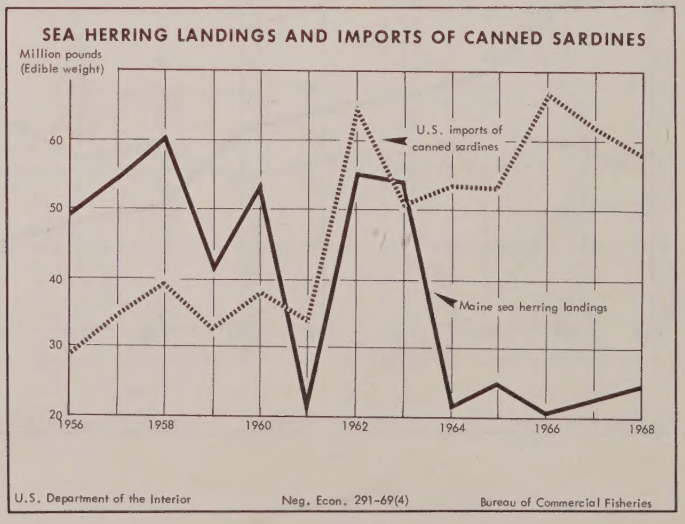


Figure 8

SUMMARY

Review of Supply Situation

Landings and Imports

Total consumption of fishery products in the United States has been increasing faster than U.S. landings. More fishery products were imported to fill the widening gap, as the world production continued to expand. Last year, about 60 percent of the groundfish were imported compared with 50 percent a year earlier. The Atlantic fishery for groundfish (flounders, ocean perch, haddock, cod, pollock, and cusk) landed about 428 million pounds, round weight--37 million pounds, or 8 percent less than in 1967 (fig. 1 to 5). Only cod and flounders gained in landings in 1968. Flounders are the only groundfish that have landings greater than imports. All other major finfish on the Atlantic Coast had reduced landings last year, particularly haddock (table 1).

Fishery production on the whole improved on the Pacific Coast last year. The salmon fishery enjoyed a larger harvest. Salmon was the only finfish that had larger exports than imports. The salmon export surplus has, however, been narrowing during the last few years. Tuna landings continued to be heavy, but were slightly lower than in 1967. Imports of raw tuna also increased, so the pack was heavier than in 1967 (fig. 6).

Pacific halibut was the only major West Coast finfish to suffer severe losses in volume and value of landings in 1968.

Fishermen's Gross Receipts Mixed

Prices paid to Atlantic fishermen for haddock and pollock were higher than in 1967. Lower prices caused lower gross receipts in the flounder and cod fisheries, even though landings increased. Except for those fishing for sea herring and tuna, Atlantic fishermen grossed less than they did in 1967 (table 3).

Both the salmon and tuna fisheries on the Pacific Coast bolstered their gross receipts in 1968--the heavier landings for salmon and price increases for tuna that were high enough to offset the decline in landings.

Overall gross receipts of the fishermen in the flounder, ocean perch, haddock, cod, pollock, cusk, Pacific halibut, salmon, tuna, and sea herring fisheries were $161.8 million, an increase of 5 percent from 1967. Finfish landings on the Pacific Coast were almost 700 million pounds, round weight, about 40 million pounds more than those on the Atlantic Coast. The value was $111 million, more than double that on the Atlantic Coast.

Total Processed Finfish Products Increased in Quantity and Value

The 1968 pack of canned finfish products for human consumption from both domestic and imported raw material was 654 million pounds, worth about $423 million--15 percent higher both in volume and value than 1967. The tuna pack was a record high, and canned salmon and Maine sardines had large increases (table 4).

The fish stick and portion industry set records in both volume and value. The production of 271 million pounds was 15 percent higher than in 1967, and the value of $109 million was 19 percent higher.

The only declines were in fillets and steaks. The production of 135 million pounds was 12 percent less than in 1967, and the value of $60 million was 7 percent lower.

Review of Demand Situation

Preliminary statistics indicate that civilian per capita consumption of edible fish and shellfish products increased from 10.7 pounds in 1967 to 11.0 pounds last year. The increase was most notable in the category of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish--up from 5.9 pounds to 6.2 pounds per person. Canned fish and shellfish consumption remained at 4.3 pounds, while cured fish remained the same at a half a pound per capita.

Among the finfish group, sales advanced strongly for fish sticks and portions, flounders, canned sardines, cod, and ocean perch in 1968. About the same amount of halibut and pollock were eaten as in 1967. Consumption of haddock and canned salmon declined (table 5).

Outlook for Supply

The food fish outlook through the first half of 1969 points to smaller supplies of groundfish. Landings of flounders, cod, and possibly ocean perch, pollock, and cusk may increase. However, the prospective drastic

decline in haddock landings may more than offset any gains made in other groundfish.

On the West Coast, the situation is mixed. The halibut fishery is expected to have a slightly better performance this year. Tuna landings likely will register a substantial gain in the first half of 1969. Salmon landings may be better in reds but not as good in pinks--the overall catch may fall slightly behind last year.

The growing demand for tuna, flounders, and cod likely will bring more from foreign markets, despite expected better-than-average landings.

An increase in the production of fish sticks and portions is expected.

Outlook for Demand

Changes in the consumption of finfish products in general depends mainly on changes in population, employment, prices of fishery products, and prices of competing food items. For 1969 general food prices, population, and employment are expected to rise at about the same rates as in 1968. These are encouraging signs for a possible increase in the consumption of finfish products.

Increases are expected in consumption of canned salmon, canned tuna, flounders, and fish sticks and portions.

A decline in sales of groundfish fillets and steaks may occur due to a possible decrease in the total quantity of groundfish available during the first half of 1969.

Table 1. U.S. domestic landings compared with imports[1/] of selected finfish species 1966-68

Species	Landings			Imports			Landings as percent of total		
	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968
	Million pounds[2/]						Percent		
Flounders	59.5	52.1	53.1	34.7	33.3	39.5	63	61	57
Ocean perch	31.1	27.7	22.4	41.6	36.3	50.4	43	43	31
Haddock	46.4	34.6	24.6	21.5	21.4	26.7	68	62	48
Cod	15.2	16.7	17.5	40.8	32.1	46.6	26	34	27
Pollock and cusk	3.1	2.7	2.2	4.6	4.3	5.4	40	39	29
Subtotal	155.3	133.8	119.8	143.2	127.4	168.6	52	51	42
Pacific halibut	21.8	21.7	14.0	19.7	18.8	23.7	52	54	37
Salmon	232.6	123.8	181.6	- 7.9[3/]	- 6.9[3/]	- 4.2[3/]	104	106	102
Tuna	166.9	211.7	200.7	153.4[4/]	130.5[4/]	157.0[4/]	52	62	56
Subtotal	421.3	357.2	396.3	165.2	142.4	176.5	72	71	69
Total	576.6	491.0	516.1	308.4	269.8	345.1	65	64	60

1/ Imports in fresh and frozen form, excluding blocks.
2/ Edible weight.
3/ Net exports.
4/ Includes only raw imports. Does not include canned imports.

Table 2. U.S. landings of selected species of finfish, 1964-68 and 1964-68 average exvessel prices

Species	1964-68 average exvessel price (rd. wgt. basis)	1964	1965	1966	1967			1968		
					Total	1st half	2d half	Total	1st half	2d half
	Cents/lb.	Million pounds[1/]								
Halibut	21.4	35.0	40.5	40.5	40.1	17.6	22.6	25.8	12.6	13.2p
Salmon	19.1	352.2	326.8	387.7	216.7[2/]	39.2[2/]	167.3[3/]	302.7p[2/]	22.8p[3/]	279.9p[3/]
Tuna	14.4	354.2	373.5	332.1	423.4[2/]	148.6[2/]	155.9[3/]	401.5p[2/]	132.1p[3/]	118.6p[3/]
Total		741.5	740.8	760.3	680.2	205.4	345.8	730.0p	167.5p	411.7p
Flounders	11.1	176.4	180.1	174.5	147.0r	68.3r	74.7r	155.4p	78.3r	77.1p
Haddock	10.8	133.5	133.8	132.3	98.5	57.5	41.0	71.3p	40.9r	30.4p
Cod	7.8	45.1	46.2	47.6	52.3	25.9	26.4	58.8p	34.5r	24.3p
Pollock	5.6	13.3	11.9	6.7	6.1	2.3	3.8	5.6p	2.2r	3.4p
Ocean Perch	4.1	110.2	112.6	103.6	91.9	40.8	51.1	75.5p	34.7r	40.9p
Whiting[4/]	3.1	94.2	82.6	90.4	69.6	4.0	65.6	61.5p	10.9r	50.7p
Total		572.7	567.2	555.1	465.4	198.8	262.6	428.1p	201.5	226.8p

1/ - Round weight.
2/ - Pacific and Atlantic landings.
3/ - California landings only.
4/ - New England landings only.
p - Preliminary.
r - Revised.

Table 3. Landings and value of selected finfish on Atlantic and Pacific coasts in 1967 and 1968

Species	Atlantic		Pacific		Total		% Change from 1967 to 1968
	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	
	Million pounds[1]						Percent
Flounders	110.9	112.9	36.1	42.5e	147.0	155.4	+ 6
Ocean perch	71.4	61.5	20.5e	14.0e	91.9	75.5	-18
Haddock	98.5	71.3	-	-	98.5	71.3	-28
Cod	44.4	48.6	7.9e	10.2e	52.3	58.8	+12
Pollock & cusk	9.0	7.9	-	-	9.0	7.9	-12
Pacific halibut[2]	-	-	39.8	25.7	39.8	25.7	-35
Salmon	-	-	216.7	302.7	216.7	302.7	+40
Tuna[3]	102.1	109.7	321.3	291.8	423.4	401.5	- 5
Sea herring	69.9	94.8	18.3	12.7	88.2	107.5	+22
Total	506.2	506.7	660.6	699.6	1,166.8	1,206.3	+ 3
% Change from 1967-68	0%		+6%		+3%		
	Million dollars						
Flounders	14.7	13.0	3.0e	3.0e	17.7	16.0	-10
Ocean perch	2.8	2.4	.8e	.5e	3.6	2.9	-19
Haddock	12.8	10.5	-	-	12.8	10.5	-18
Cod	4.6	4.3	.8e	.9e	5.4	5.2	- 4
Pollock & cusk	.7	.7	-	-	.75	.70	- 7
Pacific halibut	-	-	6.4	4.3	6.4	4.3	-33
Salmon	-	-	48.5	54.9	48.5	54.9	+13
Tuna	13.7	17.6	43.2	47.0	56.9	64.6	+14
Sea herring	1.6	2.3	.4	.4	2.0	2.7	+35
Total	50.9	50.8	103.1	111.0	154.1	161.8	+ 5
% Change from 1967-68	0%		+8%		+5%		

1/ - Round weight, except those marked.
2/ - In dressed weight.
3/ - Includes Puerto Rico and American Samoa.
e - Estimate.

Table 4. Quantity produced and value received by processors for selected fishery products, 1966-68

Species	1966	1967	1968	% change 1966 to '67	% change 1967 to '68
	Million pounds 1/			Percent	
Fillets and steaks					
Flounders	49.5	45.3	43.5	- 8	- 4
Ocean perch	28.1	24.9	19.3	-11	-22
Haddock	40.1	34.1	22.3	-15	-35
Cod	10.3	14.0	13.9	+36	- 1
Pollock and cusk	3.1	3.4	3.2	+10	- 6
Pacific halibut	7.5	6.9	6.1	- 8	-12
Salmon	2.9	1.8	2.1	-38	+17
Other	24.4	22.6	24.4	- 7	+ 8
Total/average	165.9	153.0	134.8	- 8	-12
Sticks and portions					
Sticks	81.4	73.9	91.6	- 9	+24
Portions	147.6	161.3	179.2	+ 9	+11
Total/average	229.0	235.2	270.7	+ 3	+15
Canned					
Salmon	209.2	99.5	162.7	-52	+64
Tuna	394.3	388.8	397.0	- 1	+ 2
Sardines, Maine	31.2	29.3	39.8	- 6	+36
Other finfish	57.1	50.7	54.4	-11	+ 7
Total/average	691.8	568.3	653.9	-18	+15
Grand total/average	1,086.7	956.5	1,060.4	-12	+11
	Million dollars				
Fillets and steaks					
Flounders	22.8	20.7	20.6	- 9	- 0
Ocean perch	7.5	6.6	5.1	-12	-23
Haddock	17.0	15.4	11.2	- 9	-27
Cod	3.9	5.4	5.3	+38	- 2
Pollock and cusk	7.9	9.2	9.3	+16	+ 1
Pacific halibut	4.7	3.9	3.5	-17	-10
Salmon	2.5	1.5	1.8	-40	+20
Other	3.2	1.6	3.2	-50	+100
Total/average	69.5	64.3	60.0	- 7	- 7
Sticks and portions					
Sticks	35.8	32.6	41.4	- 9	+27
Portions	58.0	58.5	67.4	- 1	+15
Total/average	93.8	91.1	108.8	- 3	+19
Canned					
Salmon	136.1	76.1	117.2	-44	+54
Tuna	270.2	261.5	267.2	- 3	+ 2
Sardines, Maine	12.3	13.9	19.3	+13	+39
Other finfish	18.1	17.3	19.2	- 4	+11
Total/average	436.7	368.8	422.9	-16	+15
Grand total/average	600.0	524.2	591.7	-13	+13

1/ - Edible weight.
Note: Shellfish and animal feed products are not included.

Table 5. Per capita consumption of selected fishery products, by quarter, 1967-68

Products	1967					1968				
	1st	2d	3d	4th	Total	1st	2d	3d	4th	Total
	Pounds 1/									
Fresh and frozen										
Pacific halibut	0.062	0.087	0.081	0.062	0.292	0.076	0.064	0.079	0.071	0.290
Haddock	.087	.083	.070	.048	.288	.079	.077	.057	.053	.266
Flounders	.101r	.113r	.112r	.103r	.429r	.126r	.122r	.116r	.113	.477
Cod	.077	.077	.068	.056	.278	.091	.076r	.074	.076	.316
Ocean perch	.094	.089	.071	.065	.319	.127	.080	.079	.070	.356
Pollock & cusk	.011	.007	.009	.009	.036	.011	.007	.008	.013	.039
Subtotal	.432	.456	.411	.343	1.642	.510	.426	.413	.396	1.744
Sticks and portions	.335	.269	.272	.329	1.205	.352	.301	.315	.340p	1.308p
Canned salmon 2/	.211	.253	.134	.134	.732	.140	.184	.169	.170	.663
Canned sardines	.129	.092	.134	.105	.460	.104	.092	.113	.117	.426
Total	1.107	1.070	.951	.911	4.039	1.106	1.003	1.010	1.023	4.141

1/ - Edible weight.
2/ - Quarterly consumption figures are derived from the calculated half yearly data in the 3d and 4th quarter.
p - Preliminary.
r - Revised.

Table 6. Sources and disposition of fresh and frozen flounders[1] in the United States, annually 1960-66, quarterly 1967, and monthly 1968-69

Year	Sources				Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	U.S. landings[2]	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption	
						Total	Per capita
	Million pounds[3]						Pounds
1960	5.7	43.3	18.7	67.7	7.5	60.3	0.335
1961	7.5	45.4	18.4	71.3	6.1	65.2	0.356
1962	6.1	53.0	18.4	77.5	6.2	71.3	0.383
1963	6.2	60.3	16.6	83.0	8.0	75.0	0.398
1964	8.0	60.1	21.6	89.7	9.0	80.7	0.422
1965	9.0	61.3	24.1	94.4	6.6	87.9	0.453
1966	6.6	59.5	34.7	100.8	10.2	90.6	0.463
1967							
1st quarter	10.2	9.8r	6.8	26.8r	6.8	20.0r	0.101r
2d quarter	6.8	14.3r	7.0	28.1r	5.8	22.3r	0.113r
3d quarter	5.8	14.8r	9.6	30.2r	8.0	22.2r	0.112r
4th quarter	8.0	13.3r	9.9	31.2r	10.7	20.5r	0.103r
Year	10.2	52.1r	33.3	95.6r	10.7	84.9r	0.429r
1968							
January	10.7	3.6	2.2	16.5r	9.1		
February	9.1	3.7	3.5	16.2r	8.2		
March	8.2	4.7	3.3	16.2r	6.5		
1st quarter	10.7	11.9	9.0	31.6r	6.5	25.1r	0.126r
April	6.5	4.9	2.7	14.1r	5.7		
May	5.7	5.4	3.3	14.3r	5.9		
June	5.9	4.1	3.4	13.4r	5.9		
2d quarter	6.5	14.3	9.4	30.3r	5.9	24.3r	0.122r
July	5.9	4.9	3.3	14.1r	7.1		
August	7.1	5.0	3.1	15.3r	7.2		
September	7.2	5.0	3.1	15.3r	7.1		
3d quarter	5.9	15.0	9.5	30.4r	7.1	23.3r	0.116r
October	7.1	4.0	4.7	15.9	7.0		
November	7.0	3.5	2.3	12.8	6.7		
December	6.7	4.3	4.6	15.6	7.8		
4th quarter	7.1	11.8	11.7	30.6	7.8	22.7	0.113
Year	10.7	53.1	39.5	103.3	7.8	95.4	0.477
1969							
January	7.8	3.7	3.2	14.7	6.7		
February	6.7	3.1	3.0	12.8	6.1p		
March	6.1p	4.4	2.7	13.2	4.8p		
1st quarter	7.8	11.3	8.8	27.9	4.8p	23.1	0.115

1/ Does not include flounders imported as frozen blocks, used primarily in the manufacture of fish sticks and portions.
2/ Includes estimated Pacific landings.
3/ Edible weight.
p - Preliminary.
r - Revised.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

FLOUNDERS

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Landings Up Slightly

Landings of flounders on both coasts increased. Almost 86 million pounds (round weight) were landed at principal New England ports in 1968, about 2 million pounds heavier than the year before (table 8). Pacific Coast landings were about 48.5 million pounds--3 percent heavier than in 1967. Total 1968 flounder landings in the United States reached 160 million pounds--a 4-percent increase over the previous year.

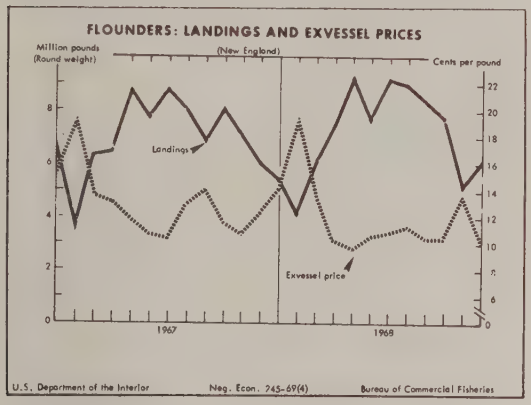


Figure 9

Yellowtail dominated the landings in New England and contributed 70 percent of the landings of all flounders. Yellowtail totaled 60 million pounds--about 10 million pounds higher than in 1967.

In Washington, landings of sole were over three times heavier than landings of other flounders.

Imports--a New High

United States imported 39.5 million pounds, edible weight, of flounders in 1968, up 6.2 million pounds from the previous year (table 6). Imports increased at an even faster pace than landings. Canada contributed 97 percent of imports.

Holdings at Normal Height at End of 1968

Cold storage holdings of flounder fillets carried over from 1967 were 10.7 million pounds--a record high for January 1. They declined to around 5.7 to 5.9 million pounds during the summer before increasing seasonally in the winter. Holdings reached 7.8 million pounds by January 1, 1969. Canadian holdings declined steadily from 7 million pounds on January 1, 1968, to 3.5 million pounds on January 1, 1969 (table 9).

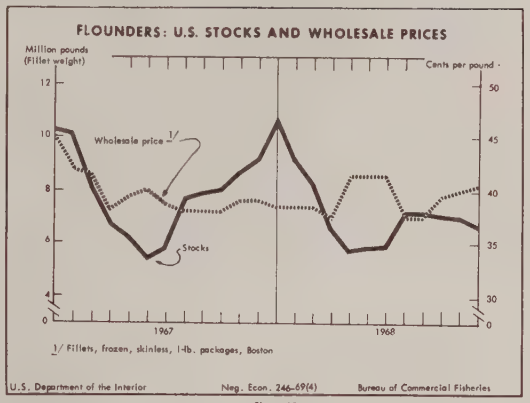


Figure 10

Demand--1968

Consumption of Flounders Up

Apparent consumption of flounders was 95.4 million pounds, edible weight, up 12.4 percent from the previous year (table 6). Increase in imports and domestic landings in 1968 brought exvessel and wholesale prices down and stimulated flounder consumption. The increase in haddock prices may have had an indirect bearing on the demand for flounders. Some preliminary work indicates that an increase in haddock prices will stimulate the consumption of flounders, when everything else is equal. Conversely, a decline in flounder price tends to increase flounder consumption. Haddock is one of the possible substitutes for flounder.

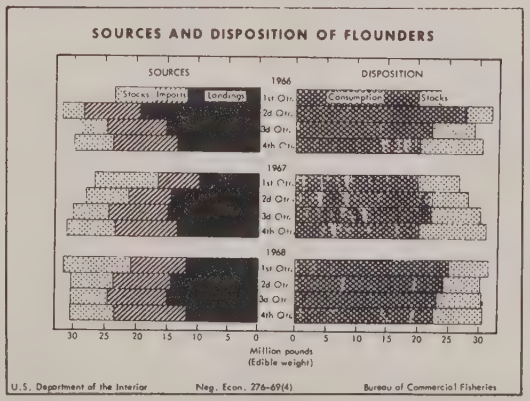


Figure 11

Prices Down Except at the Retail Level

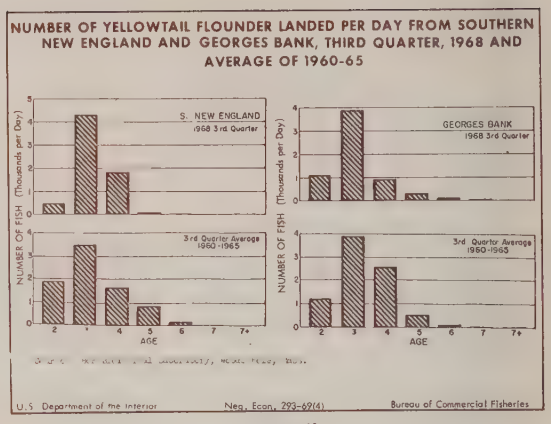
Wholesale and exvessel prices of most varieties of flounders dropped in 1968, while retail prices rose.

Among the lower exvessel prices were those of yellowtail and blackback, the major species landed in New England. Dab and lemon sole exvessel prices were up, but landings of these species were less than in 1967.

Weighted average exvessel prices for all species at principal New England ports dropped from 13.3 cents per pound in 1967 to 11.5 cents in 1968 (table 8).

Wholesale prices of frozen fillets at Boston, Mass. were down slightly last year compared with the year before. They gained some strength during May through July, then weakened, but recovered somewhat toward the end of 1968. The monthly average was 39.4 cents per pound--3 cents lower than in 1967 (table 10).

Retail prices of fresh flounders in New York City were up in 1968. Fresh fillet prices averaged $1.02 per pound--a rise of about 5 cents, while fresh drawn prices rose 3.5 cents to an average price of 60.8 cents in 1968 (table 10).


NUMBER OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER LANDED PER DAY FROM SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND AND GEORGES BANK, THIRD QUARTER, 1968 AND AVERAGE OF 1960-65
S. NEW ENGLAND
1968 3rd Quarter
GEORGES BANK
1968 3rd Quarter
3rd Quarter Average 1960-1965
NUMBER OF FISH (Thousands per Day)
AGE
U.S. Department of the Interior
Neg. Econ. 293-69(4)
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Figure 12

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

Landings Expected to be Higher

According to data prepared by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., the 1966 year class of yellowtail flounder which will enter the fishery in 1969, is not as strong as the two previous year classes. We expect a slightly lower abundance in 1969 on the southern New England grounds because of the relatively small 1966 year class. The 1966 year class of yellowtail was about average on Georges Bank, according to the survey. Owing to the increasing demand for flounders and stepped-up fishing effort, however, New England landings of flounders are expected to increase in 1969. During the first quarter, New England flounder landings were 16.5 million pounds, round weight--5 percent above 1968, despite much bad weather.

From a study of New England flounder landings in the past, we expect that landings in the second quarter will be about 26 million pounds. Total flounder landings in New England for the first 6 months of 1969 may be 6 to 8 percent above a year ago.

Total landings on both coasts for the first half-year could come close to 80 million pounds in round weight, equivalent to 26 million pounds in edible weight. Pacific landings are on the average a little over half the amount landed in New England.

Imports--Higher in the First Half-Year

Canadian landings of flounders also are expected to be larger this year than last. Canadian storage holdings of flounders were low in early 1969, so imports from Canada likely will be less in the first half than the second half of 1969. We expect that imports will be around 20 to 21 million pounds, edible weight, during the first half of this year--about 8 percent heavier than last year.

Demand--First Half of 1969

A continued drop in haddock supplies, combined with a sharp price rise for haddock, is expected to produce higher sales of flounders in 1969, even if flounder prices average a little higher than last year. With wholesale prices of frozen flounder fillets staying around the March level and other factors, such as prices of competing fillets, personal income and population growth, moving along their normal trends, sales of flounders in the first half of 1969 could reach 52 million pounds, edible weight--some 2 to 3 million pounds above last year.

With January 1, 1969, flounder stocks of 7.8 million pounds, expected landings of 26 million pounds, edible weight, and 20 to 21 million pounds of imports during the first half of 1969, about 55 million pounds of flounder fillets would be available in the United States. The expected consumption of 51 to 52 million pounds at the existing price level will leave only 3 to 4 million pounds in storage on July 1, 1969. If supplies fall short of these estimates, prices can be expected to strengthen by midsummer.

Table 7. Monthly landings of flounders (all species) at principal New England ports, 1966-69

Month	1966	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds 1/			
January	5.1	6.5	5.4	7.1
February	6.7	3.5	4.1	4.0
March	8.7	6.3	6.2	5.4
1st quarter	20.6	16.4	15.7	16.5
April	9.0	6.5	7.5	
May	10.4	8.8	9.3	
June	9.9	7.7	7.6	
2d quarter	29.2	23.0	24.4	
July	9.0	8.8	9.2	
August	9.3	8.0	9.0	
September	8.0	6.8	8.4	
3d quarter	26.4	23.6	26.6	
October	9.1	8.1	7.8	
November	8.4	7.1	5.1	
December	5.3	6.0	6.3	
4th quarter	22.8	21.2	19.2	
Year	99.0	84.1	85.9	

Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

1/ Round weight.

Table 8. Quantity and exvessel prices of flounders landed at principal ports in New England and Washington State (1967 and 1968, by quarter)

Region/Species	1967 1st Qtr.	1967 2d Qtr.	1967 3d Qtr.	1967 4th Qtr.	1967 Year	1968 1st Qtr.	1968 2d Qtr.	1968 3d Qtr.	1968 4th Qtr.	1968 Year
	Thousand pounds 1/									
New England:										
Blackback	1,767	7,968	5,041	4,734	19,510	1,547	5,929	3,778	2,686	13,940
Dab	1,523	2,634	1,927	989	7,073	953	2,258	1,488	605	5,304
Fluke	146	127	346	47	666	34	63	192	14	303
Gray sole	1,204	1,517	1,212	846	4,779	1,004	1,549	1,547	828	4,928
Lemon sole	118	647	402	381	1,548	120	660	374	193	1,347
Yellowtail	11,628	10,040	14,660	14,200	50,528	12,074	13,896	19,184	14,899	60,053
Total	16,389	22,933	23,588	21,197	84,107	15,732	24,355	26,563	19,225	85,875
Washington:										
Soles	1,145	2,481	1,461	1,484	6,571	2,690	1,531	1,568	1,228	7,017
Others	192	288		617	1,097	244	544	250	886	1,924
Total	1,337	2,769	1,461	2,101	7,668	2,934	2,075	1,818	2,114	8,941
	Cents per pound									
New England:										
Blackback	17.9	20.2	13.4	12.4	16.3	21.5	10.0	16.6	12.8	13.3
Dab	14.1	8.3	12.5	11.6	11.2	16.8	9.2	13.2	12.6	12.1
Fluke	20.8	21.3	37.7	19.5	29.4	28.6	44.4	46.4	28.6	43.1
Gray sole	16.0	11.0	12.1	14.5	13.2	16.8	11.1	12.5	14.4	13.3
Lemon sole	27.4	15.9	22.5	24.1	20.5	41.7	18.6	28.1	23.8	24.0
Yellowtail	15.3	13.2	10.0	9.9	11.8	17.5	10.2	8.8	10.6	11.3
Weighted av.	16.1	14.9	11.7	11.0	13.3	15.2	10.4	13.0	11.3	12.5
Washington										
Soles	8.6	8.4	8.4	9.5	7.4	9.2	8.2	8.4	8.8	8.7
Others	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Weighted av.	8.1	8.0	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.5	6.2	7.3	5.3	7.0

1/ Round weight.

Table 9. First-of-month cold storage holdings of flounder fillets in the United States and Canada, 1967-69

Month	United States			Canada 1/			Total		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds								
January	[illegible]	10.7	7.8	[illegible]	7.6	3.5	16.0	17.6	11.3
February	10.1	9.1	6.7	4.7	6.2	2.8	14.7	15.2	9.5
March	8.1	8.2	6.0	3.8	4.6	2.2p	12.0	12.8	8.2p
April	6.8	6.5	4.8p	4.0	3.8	1.6p	10.8	10.3	6.4p
May	6.2	5.7	3.4p	3.4	3.2		9.6	8.9	
June	5.4	5.9		5.1	5.3		10.4	11.1	
July	5.8	5.9		6.1	5.6		11.9	11.6	
August	7.7	7.1		6.8	5.3		14.5	12.4	
September	7.9	7.2		7.4	6.0		15.3	13.2	
October	8.0	7.1		7.6	5.8		15.6	12.9	
November	8.7	7.0		7.8	5.3		16.5	12.3	
December	9.2	6.7		7.2	4.0		16.4	10.6	

1/ - Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
p - Preliminary.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 10. Monthly exvessel, wholesale and retail prices of flounders, 1967-69

Month	Exvessel price 1/								
	Yellowtail			Blackback & lemon sole			Sea dab		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound								
January	12.2	13.3	9.5	16.4	24.9	15.0	15.0	17.9	14.4
February	19.6	18.3	16.7	23.1	23.3	19.1	22.3	20.5	16.7
March	12.8	12.0	14.2	19.3	21.6	15.0	17.8	18.5	12.5
April	13.6	11.8	14.0	12.3	12.1	10.9	13.6	12.5	9.0
May	10.9	9.5		11.7	11.8		12.8	10.9	
June	12.7	11.7		11.8	11.2		11.6	11.0	
July	8.0	8.0		13.7	15.5		11.4	11.9	
August	10.4	9.2		16.0	18.2		15.0	14.5	
September	12.4	9.0		17.7	16.8		17.8	13.3	
October	9.5	9.5		13.2	14.4		12.7	12.2	
November	9.7	14.7		12.4	10.7		16.1	11.9	
December	11.0	9.2		17.4	13.5		18.2	16.9	
Average	12.2	11.3		15.6	16.2		15.3	14.3	

Month	Wholesale price			Retail price 3/					
	Fillets frozen 2/			Fillets, fresh			Drawn, fresh		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound								
January	45.0	38.5	42.5	102.2	102.5	104.0	57.9	62.2	61.0
February	42.0	38.5	42.5	100.2	103.5	101.5	59.8	64.5	64.3
March	41.5	38.5	48.0	97.6	117.3	131.8	63.6	69.0	66.3
April	38.0	37.5	40.0	92.9	102.2	116.5	56.5	57.6	57.4
May	39.5	41.5		90.5	99.0		58.0	57.2	
June	40.0	41.5		89.5	100.2		53.4	56.7	
July	38.5	41.5		95.0	99.4		54.5	56.3	
August	38.0	37.5		87.2	99.0		54.8	58.5	
September	38.0	37.5		109.0	94.4		59.0	62.3	
October	38.0	39.5		102.0	99.8		57.0	63.0	
November	39.0	40.0		97.8	105.1		56.3	60.5	
December	39.0	40.5		99.0	99.5		58.3	59.8	
Average	39.7	39.4		96.9	101.8		57.4	60.8	

1/ - At New Bedford, Mass.
2/ - Skinless, 1-lb. package, at Boston, Mass.
3/ - Most general prices at New York, N.Y.

OCEAN PERCH

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Supplies of ocean perch in 1968 were 90.9 million pounds, edible weight--up 11 percent from the year earlier. U.S. landings declined by 5.3 million pounds, but imports increased by over 14 million pounds.

Landings Down about 20 Percent

Landings from both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts were 22.4 million pounds, edible weight, down 19.2 percent from 1967. Since 1960, Atlantic landings have been declining about 3.1 million pounds a year, while Pacific landings have been declining about 0.8 million pounds a year (table 12).

The depressed price of ocean perch has dampened the fishing effort of the U.S. fleet. In addition, the Canadian fishermen have a cost advantage of being closer to the Atlantic fishing grounds and are aided by Government subsidies.

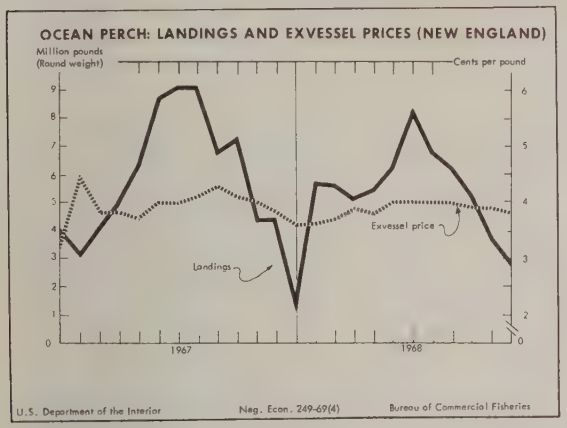


Figure 13

Imports--over 90 Percent from Canada

United States imported 50.4 million pounds of ocean perch in 1968, up almost 39 percent from the year before. Canada supplied 93 percent of the imports in 1968, increasing her volume 13.6 million pounds from the 1967 level of 33.2 million pounds. Since 1960, imports have been trending upward at an average rate of about 4 million pounds a year. Canada contributed 70-75 percent of ocean perch imports in earlier years (table 12).

Holdings Higher in 1968

Beginning holdings of 18 million pounds in 1968 were about the same as in 1967. As landings dropped and sales increased, holdings gradually receded to 3.6 million pounds at the end of the second quarter. But heavy imports were added to the stocks during the third and fourth quarters as sales started to slow down. Consequently, the year ended with frozen stocks of 19.7 million pounds--a record carryover. April 1, 1969, holdings, however, had dropped to 8.6 million pounds (table 13).

Canadian holdings of ocean perch were much lower at the start of 1968--about 6.7 million pounds. Fast withdrawals reduced the holdings to 1.4 million pounds in May, but storages built up again to 5 million pounds on January 1, 1969.

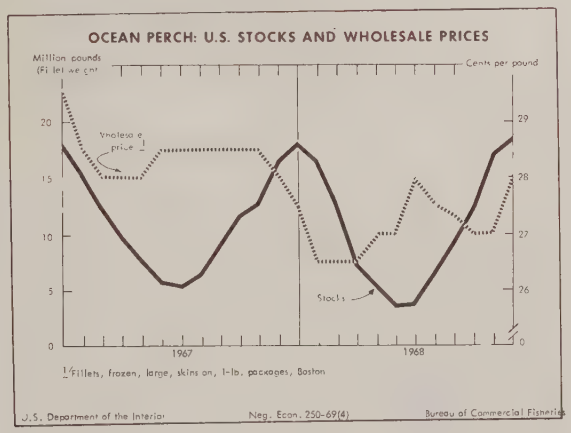


Figure 14

Demand--1968

Consumption Highest in 1968

After a slight drop in 1967, consumption of ocean perch reached a record high of 71.1 million pounds, fillet weight. Because of heavy holdings and lower prices, sales surged in the first quarter of 25.4 million pounds. Sales dropped gradually during the rest of the year; sales were only 13.9 million pounds in the last quarter. Total sales were, however, 11.4 percent higher than the year before and 15.8 percent over the most recent 5-year average (table 12).

Table 11. Sources and disposition of ocean perch (excluding blocks) in the United States, 1962-69

Year	Sources						Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	Landings: Atlantic	Landings: Pacific	Landings: Total	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption: Total	Apparent consumption: Per capita
	Million pounds[1]								Pounds
1962	13.0	37.2	5.2	42.4	19.5	74.8	13.5	61.4	0.330
1963	13.5	32.5	7.1	39.6	21.6	74.6	16.3	58.3	0.309
1964	16.3	26.8	6.3	33.1	22.9	72.4	15.4	57.0	0.298
1965	15.4	25.3	8.5	33.8	25.7	74.9	12.2	62.7	0.325
1966	12.2	24.4	6.7	31.1	41.6	84.9	17.9	67.0	0.342
1967	17.9	21.5	6.2	27.7	36.3	81.8	18.0	63.8	0.319
1968									
January	18.0	0.4	*	0.4e	6.1	24.5e	16.4		
February	16.4	1.7	0.1e	1.9e	2.2	20.5e	12.4		
March	12.4	1.7	0.1e	1.8e	2.3	16.4e	7.3		
1st quarter	18.0	3.8	0.3e	4.1e	10.5	32.7e	7.3	25.4	0.127e
April	7.3	1.5	0.1e	1.7e	2.4	11.3e	5.5		
May	5.5	1.6	0.5e	2.1e	1.4	9.0e	3.5		
June	3.5	1.9	0.4e	2.3e	2.4	8.3e	3.6		
2d quarter	7.3	5.0	1.0e	6.1e	6.2	19.6e	3.6	16.0e	0.080e
July	3.6	2.5	0.4e	2.9e	6.9	13.6e	6.6		
August	6.6	2.0	0.5e	2.5e	4.7	13.8e	9.5		
September	9.5	1.9	0.8e	2.6e	4.9	17.0e	12.4		
3d quarter	3.6	6.3	1.7e	8.1e	16.5	28.2e	12.4	15.9e	0.079e
October	12.4	1.5	0.3e	1.9e	11.2	25.4e	17.0		
November	17.0	1.1	0.3e	1.4e	2.9	21.3e	18.4		
December	18.4	0.8	0.1e	0.9e	3.1	22.5e	19.7		
4th quarter	12.4	3.5	0.7e	4.2e	17.1	33.7e	19.7	14.0e	0.070e
Year	18.0	18.7	3.8e	22.4e	50.4	90.9e	19.7	71.2e	0.356e
1969									
January	19.7	1.0	*	1.1e	6.5	27.3e	15.3		
February	15.3	0.9	0.1e	1.0e	2.2	18.5e	12.3p		
March	12.3p	0.9	0.1e	1.0e	4.8	18.2e	8.6p		
1st quarter	19.7	2.8	0.2e	3.1e	13.6e	36.4e	8.6p	27.7	0.138

1/ - Edible weight. e - Estimate. * - Less than 50,000 pounds. Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
p - Preliminary.

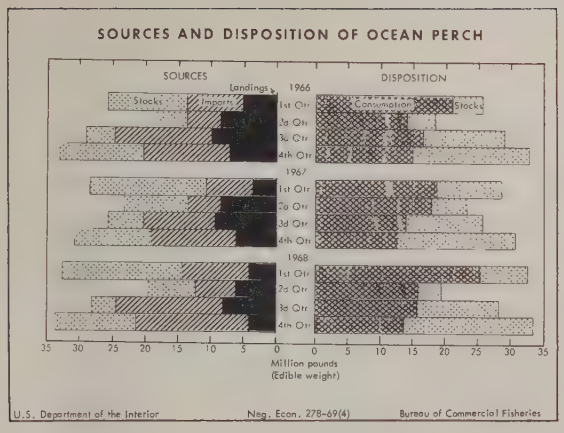


Figure 15

Prices Dropped at All Levels

The exvessel, wholesale and retail prices of ocean perch dropped in 1968. Exvessel prices were slightly higher in the third quarter when landings started to decline seasonally. The average monthly retail price in 1968 was fractionally lower than in 1967. The drop in exvessel and wholesale prices was about 5 percent below the previous year. The decline in wholesale and retail prices helped to increase consumption (table 14).

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

Ocean perch abundance was up in the Gulf of Maine as indicated by third quarter 1968 data from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, abundance of ocean perch was about the same as the fall of 1967, but above average. A slight increase in New England landings is expected during the first half of 1969, due to increasing demand and adequate abundance.

U.S. ocean perch landings are expected to be 10 million pounds, fillet weight, in the first half of 1969; New England provides 9 million of this total. This is a slight increase over the first half of 1968.

Most ocean perch imports come from Canada. Total imports of ocean perch fillets for the first half of 1969 are not expected to be above last year's 16 million pounds because January 1, 1969, Canadian inventories were lower.

With a beginning U.S. inventory of 19.7 million pounds and expected imports of 20 million pounds and landings of 10 million pounds, a total of 50 million pounds of ocean perch fillets would be available in the first half of 1969 in the United States--up about 5 million pounds from a year ago.

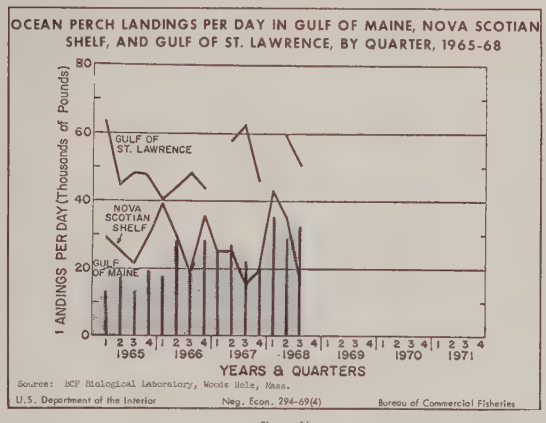

OCEAN PERCH LANDINGS PER DAY IN GULF OF MAINE, NOVA SCOTIAN SHELF, AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, BY QUARTER, 1965-68
LANDINGS PER DAY (Thousands of Pounds)
80
60
40
20
0
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE
NOVA SCOTIAN SHELF
GULF OF MAINE
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971
YEARS & QUARTERS
Source: BCF Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.
U.S. Department of the Interior
Neg. Econ. 294-69(4)
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

Figure 16

Demand--First Half of 1969

Ocean perch consumption could be about 45 million pounds, fillet weight, if prices remain at the March-April level and other factors, such as prices of competing fillets, personal income, and population growth, assume normal trends. First quarter consumption amounted to 27.7 million pounds. About 17 million pounds is expected to be consumed in the second quarter. This seasonal drop was similar to the one in 1968 when consumption was 25 million pounds in the first quarter and 16 million in the second quarter.

If consumption of ocean perch is 45 million pounds as assumed above, the carryover will be 5 million pounds on July 1, 1969, which still would be a little high for this time of year. A consumption higher than our estimate, will tend to reduce inventories in the middle of the year and strengthen prices for the rest of 1969.

Table 14. Sources and disposition of fresh and frozen haddock[1/] in the United States, yearly 1960-67 and monthly 1968-69

Year	Sources				Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	Landings	Imports of fillets	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption: Total	Apparent consumption: Per capita
	Million pounds[2/]						Pounds
1960	10.2	41.7	18.2	70.1	8.1	62.0	0.345
1961	8.1	46.9	21.1	76.1	10.3	65.8	0.354
1962	10.3	47.1	20.6	78.0	5.4	72.6	0.385
1963	5.4	43.5	19.8	68.7	4.8	63.9	0.334
1964	4.8	46.9	19.1	71.5	7.4	64.0	0.330
1965	7.4	47.0	17.0	71.4	6.7	64.7	0.334
1966	6.9	46.4	21.5	74.8	7.9	66.9	0.341
1967	7.9	34.6	21.4	63.9	6.9	57.0	0.288
1968							
January	6.9	1.5	1.6	9.8	5.4		
February	5.4	1.7	1.8	8.9	4.1		
March	4.1	2.7	2.6	9.4	3.0		
1st quarter	6.9	5.9	5.9	18.7	3.0	15.7	0.079
April	3.0	3.1	3.4	9.5	3.6		
May	3.6	2.9	2.2	8.7	3.8		
June	3.8	2.4	2.3	8.5	4.0		
2d quarter	3.0	8.5	7.9	19.4	4.0	15.4	0.077
July	4.0	2.3	2.7	9.0	5.3		
August	5.3	2.0	2.1	9.4	5.2		
September	5.2	2.1	2.7	10.0	6.3		
3d quarter	4.0	6.4	7.5	17.9	6.3	11.7	0.058
October	6.3	1.8	2.2	10.3	6.1		
November	6.1	1.3	1.3	8.7	5.0		
December	5.0	0.7	1.8	7.4	4.8		
4th quarter	6.3	3.8	5.3	15.4	4.8	10.5	0.053
Year	6.9	24.6	26.7	58.2	4.8	53.3	0.267
1969							
January	4.8	0.9	0.9	6.6	3.3		
February	3.3	1.0	2.3	6.6	2.8p		
March	2.8p	1.7	3.9	8.4	2.0p		
1st quarter	4.8	3.7	7.0	15.5	2.0p	13.4	0.067

1/ - Excludes haddock imported in frozen blocks and used primarily in the manufacture of sticks and portions.
2/ - Edible weight.
p - Preliminary.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

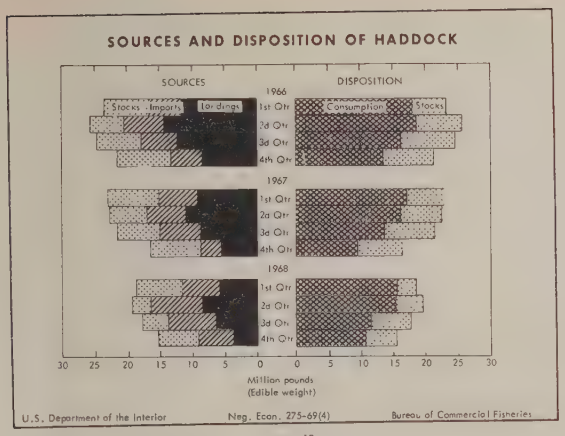


Figure 19

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

The drastic drop of haddock landings for the last 3 years was due to a decreased abundance on Georges Bank. According to the Bureau's biologists, the 1962 and 1963 year classes are the major contributors to the fishery at this time. Yet they have been fished down to such a level that landings have little possibility of increasing in 1969. In fact, they will probably be much lower.

Haddock less than 5 years old are scarce on Georges Bank, so a new and successful year class would not help the fishery until 1971, according to the Bureau's biologists. Although large haddock were slightly more abundant in 1968, biologists predict that their abundance will decline in 1969 and continue downward into the early 1970's.

About 3.7 million pounds, edible weight, of haddock were landed in the first quarter of this year, compared with 5.9 million during the first quarter of 1968. The seasonal pattern of haddock landings in the past indicates that about 5 million pounds could be landed in the second quarter. The total volume for the first half year would be a drop of 40 percent from the previous year.

Since haddock abundance on Georges Bank is low, foreign fishermen likely will begin to fish on other haddock grounds. The possibility of an increase in Canadian haddock landings looks slim too, and their haddock storage stocks were low on January 1, 1969. Heavy imports from Canada in 1969 are less likely despite rising United States haddock prices; however, more haddock might be imported from the Scandinavian countries as in the past. Total imports of haddock fillets may come close to 15 million pounds for the first half of 1969.

A total quantity of 29 million pounds appears to be available during the first half of 1969, a drop of 6 million pounds from the year before.

Demand--First Half of 1969

Consumption of haddock appears to be associated not only with the prices of haddock but also with the prices of flounders and other fillets. An increase in the price of haddock in 1968 has brought about a proportionally greater decline in haddock consumption. Offsetting this to some extent is the tendency for an increase in other fillet prices to bring about a proportionally greater increase in haddock consumption, when everything else is unchanged. Consumption of flounders has been increasing during the last decade, while consumption of haddock declined.

Sales were about 13.4 million pounds, fillet weight, in the first quarter. If prices of frozen haddock fillets stay at 52 cents, wholesale, we can expect a consumption of 11 million pounds for the second quarter of 1969. This total of 24 million pounds would be a decline of about 25 percent from the first half of 1968.

If the above assumptions are valid, U.S. storage stocks may drop to 4 million pounds on July 1, 1969, which could be considered a normal level. In the event that sales exceed 24 million pounds, U.S. holdings at the beginning of the second half year could drop below 4 million pounds and generate a bullish effect on prices. Imports could exceed our estimate if (1) United States prices of haddock rise even more above foreign prices, (2) Scandinavian countries have good landings of haddock, and/or (3) foreign producers of blocks shift to fillets.

Table 15. New England haddock landings, by port, annually for 1960 to 1966, quarterly for 1967, and monthly for 1968 and 1969

Year	Boston	Gloucester	New Bedford	Maine ports	All other New England	Total New England
	Million pounds[1]					
1960	76.7	12.1	9.2	3.4	2.7	104.0
1961	84.1	15.0	12.0	2.6	3.5	117.1
1962	83.1	16.0	12.3	2.2	4.0	117.7
1963	75.1	17.2	10.2	2.5	3.6	108.7
1964	76.3	22.9	12.1	2.6	3.1	117.1
1965	75.7	24.4	11.8	1.7	3.6	117.6
1966	65.5	27.1	15.7	1.8	4.5	114.6
1967						
1st quarter	13.2	7.0	2.1	0.1	0.1	22.6
2d quarter	16.3	6.5	3.4	0.5	0.4	27.1
3d quarter	13.0	3.3	3.6	0.5	1.6	22.0
4th quarter	8.6	2.5	1.8	0.3	0.4	13.5
Year	51.0	19.3	10.9	1.5	2.4	85.2
1968						
January	2.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.1	3.7
February	2.7	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	4.3
March	4.5	2.0	0.2	0.1	-	6.8
1st quarter	9.4	4.0	1.0	0.3	1.5	14.8
April	4.5	2.5	0.7	0.1	-	7.8
May	3.9	1.9	1.3	0.2	*	7.2
June	3.7	0.8	1.1	0.2	*	5.9
2d quarter	12.1	5.2	3.1	0.5	*	20.8
July	3.2	0.9	0.9	0.7	*	5.7
August	2.9	0.9	0.8	0.3	*	4.9
September	2.9	1.3	0.6	0.5	*	5.2
3d quarter	9.0	3.1	2.3	1.5	*	15.8
October	2.4	1.3	0.6	0.2	*	4.5
November	1.8	1.0	0.2	0.1	*	3.1
December	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	*	1.6
4th quarter	5.1	2.8	1.0	0.4	*	9.2
Year	35.6	15.1	7.4	2.7	*	60.7
1969						
January	1.5	0.6	0.2	*	-	2.4p
February	1.4	0.8	0.1	0.1	-	2.5
March	2.7	1.2	0.4	*	-	4.3p
1st quarter	5.6	2.6	0.7	0.1	-	9.8

1/ Drawn weight.
* Less than 50,000 pounds.
p - Preliminary.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 16. Haddock landings in the New England Region[1] by month and quarter, 1967-69

Month	1967			1968			1969		
	Large	Scrod	Total	Large	Scrod	Total	Large	Scrod	Total
	Million pounds[2]								
January	2.4	6.5	8.9	2.1	2.1	4.2	1.7	1.0	2.7
February	1.7	4.3	6.0	2.2	2.7	4.9	1.6	1.2	2.8
March	3.6	7.3	10.9	3.8	4.0	7.8	2.8p	2.1p	5.0p
1st quarter	7.7	18.1	25.8	8.1	8.7	16.8	6.1p	4.3p	10.4p
April	3.2	6.4	9.6	4.3	4.7	9.0			
May	3.4	6.6	10.0	4.2	4.1	8.3			
June	4.0	7.2	11.2	3.9	2.9	6.8			
2d quarter	10.7	20.2	30.9	12.4	11.7	24.1			
July	2.8	5.8	8.6	3.9	2.7	6.6			
August	2.5	5.6	8.1	3.1	2.5	5.7			
September	3.0	5.4	8.4	3.9	2.1	6.0			
3d quarter	8.3	16.8	25.1	10.9	7.3	18.3			
October	2.7	4.4	7.1	3.4	1.8	5.2			
November	2.2	2.6	4.9	2.4	1.2	3.6			
December	1.8	1.6	3.4	1.2	0.7	1.9			
4th quarter	6.8	8.6	15.4	7.0	3.7	10.7			
Year	33.4	63.7	97.1	38.4	31.6	70.0			

1/ Accounts for over 99 percent of U.S. haddock landings
2/ Round weight
Figures may not add to total because of rounding
p - Preliminary

Table 17. Haddock landings, value and average exvessel price, New England by size of fish annually for 1962-67, and monthly for 1968 and 1969

Year	Quantity			Value			Average price		
	Large	Scrod	Total	Large	Scrod	Total	Large	Scrod	Total
	Million pounds 1/			Million dollars			Cents per pound		
1962	52.7	65.0	117.7	5.3	5.6	10.9	10.1	8.6	9.3
1963	56.7	52.0	108.7	6.4	5.3	11.7	11.2	10.2	10.8
1964	64.5	52.6	117.1	6.8	5.1	11.8	10.5	9.2	10.1
1965	50.9	66.2	117.1	6.9	6.8	13.7	13.5	10.3	11.7
1966	35.4	79.2	114.6	5.2	8.6	13.8	14.7	10.8	12.0
1967	29.3	55.9	85.2	4.3	6.7	11.1	14.7	12.1	13.0
1968									
January	1.9	1.8	3.7	0.04	0.03	0.07	20.5	17.7	19.1
February	1.9	2.3	4.3	0.04	0.05	0.09	21.1	19.3	20.1
March	3.3	3.4	6.8	0.05	0.05	0.10	14.5	14.1	14.3
1st quarter	7.1	7.6	14.8	1.28	1.26	2.54	17.9	16.5	17.2
April	3.7	4.0	7.8	0.38	0.41	0.80	10.3	10.3	10.3
May	3.6	3.6	7.2	0.46	0.42	0.88	12.7	11.9	12.3
June	3.4	2.5	5.9	0.45	0.32	0.78	13.3	12.9	13.2
2d quarter	10.7	10.1	20.8	1.29	1.17	2.46	12.1	11.5	11.8
July	3.4	2.4	5.7	0.43	0.28	0.71	12.6	11.9	12.3
August	2.7	2.2	4.9	0.39	0.30	0.69	14.5	13.9	14.2
September	3.4	1.8	5.2	0.48	0.26	0.74	14.2	14.1	14.2
3d quarter	9.4	6.4	15.8	1.29	0.85	2.14	13.7	13.2	13.5
October	2.9	1.6	4.5	0.50	0.26	0.76	17.0	16.6	16.9
November	2.1	1.1	3.1	0.38	0.20	0.58	18.6	18.6	18.6
December	1.1	0.6	1.6	0.30	0.15	0.45	28.0	26.2	27.3
4th quarter	6.0	3.2	9.2	1.17	0.61	1.79	19.5	19.0	19.3
Year	33.3	27.4	60.7	5.04	3.89	8.93	15.1	14.2	14.7
1969									
January	1.5	0.9	2.4	0.37	0.19	0.56	25.0	21.9	23.8
February	1.4	1.1	2.5	0.35	0.24	0.59	25.2	22.4	24.0
March	2.5p	1.9p	4.3p	0.45p	0.32p	0.77p	18.2	17.0	17.7
1st quarter	5.3p	3.8p	9.2p	1.47p	0.75p	1.92p	27.5	19.7	21.0

1/ - Drawn weight. p - Preliminary. Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 18. First-of-month cold storage holdings of haddock fillets, United States and Canada 1967-69

Month	United States			Canada 1/			Total		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds								
January	7.9	6.9	4.8	2.4	2.1	1.1	10.3	9.0	5.9
February	7.1	5.4	3.3	2.5	1.8	1.0	9.6	7.2	4.3
March	6.0	4.1	2.8p	2.6	1.5	1.2p	8.6	5.6	4.0p
April	5.8	3.0	2.0p	3.3	2.2	2.3p	9.2	5.2	4.3p
May	6.4	3.6	3.4p	4.5	2.9		11.0	6.4	
June	6.3	3.8		4.5	3.3		10.8	7.1	
July	6.5	4.0		4.1	3.0		10.6	7.0	
August	7.3	5.3		3.9	2.7		11.1	8.0	
September	7.9	5.2		3.5	2.4		11.5	7.6	
October	7.7	6.3		3.5e	2.2		11.2	8.5	
November	7.2	6.1		3.1	1.9		10.2	8.0	
December	6.8	5.0		2.6	1.5		9.5	6.4	

1/ Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
e - Estimate.
p - Preliminary
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 19. Monthly exvessel, wholesale, and retail prices of haddock in the United States, 1967-69

Month	Exvessel price 1/			Wholesale price						Retail price 4/		
				Fresh fillets 2/			Frozen fillets 3/			Frozen fillets		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound											
January	14.5	19.2	24.2	52.5	85.0	83.5	38.0	37.5	52.0	67.9	66.8	69.1
February	16.6	20.1	24.4	55.0	69.5	87.0	38.0	39.5	52.5	68.2	67.2	70.1
March	11.3	14.3	18.0	35.5	38.5	86.5	38.0	41.0	53.0	68.4	66.5	70.1
April	11.8	10.3	13.9	44.0	50.0		36.0	42.0	52.0	68.5	67.1	
May	12.1	12.3		42.5	44.0		35.5	38.5		67.9	67.5	
June	10.8	13.2		39.0	52.0		36.0	38.5		67.2	67.7	
July	12.3	12.3		43.5	54.0		36.0	38.5		67.1	67.6	
August	12.1	14.2		44.5	53.0		36.0	39.0		67.3	67.8	
September	12.0	14.2		46.5	52.0		37.0	41.5		67.2	67.5	
October	13.7	16.9		43.0	70.0		37.0	53.0		66.7	67.9	
November	17.1	18.6		58.5	80.5		37.0	52.5		66.7	68.1	
December	21.0	27.3		67.5	85.0		38.0	50.0		67.3	68.7	
Average	13.0 5/	14.7 5/		47.7	61.1		36.9	42.7		67.5	67.5	

1/ - Weighted average for large and scrod, New England principal ports.
2/ - Skins on 20-lb. tins, Boston.
3/ - Skins on 1-lb. packages, Boston.
4/ - One-pound packages, Bureau of Labor Statistics 47-city U.S. average price.
5/ - Annual weighted average.

Table 20. Sources and disposition of fresh and frozen cod (excluding frozen blocks) annually 1962-67 and monthly 1968-69

Year	Sources						Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	Landings: Atlantic	Landings: Pacific	Landings: Total	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption: Total	Apparent consumption: Per capita
	Million pounds 1/								Pounds
1962	7.1	15.2	1.0	16.2	33.[illegible]	56.[illegible]	[illegible].7	46.6	0.250
1963	9.7	13.7	1.9	15.6	32.7	58.[illegible]	8.9	49.1	0.260
1964	8.9	12.6	1.9	14.5	33.[illegible]	56.[illegible]	6.2	50.7	0.265
1965	6.2	11.8	3.0	14.8	33.7	54.7	[illegible].7	49.1	0.253
1966	5.7	12.2	3.0	15.2	40.8	61.7	12.7	49.0	0.250
1967	12.7	14.0	2.7e	16.7e	32.1	61.[illegible]	[illegible].5	55.0e	0.278e
1968									
January	6.5	0.9	0.2e	1.1e	4.3	11.9	6.1		
February	6.1	0.9	0.5e	1.4e	3.5	10.9	4.6		
March	4.6	1.1	0.4e	1.5e	3.5	9.6	3.7		
1st quarter	6.5	2.9	1.1e	4.0e	11.3	21.8	3.7	18.1e	0.091e
April	3.7	1.6	0.3e	1.9e	4.2	9.9	4.5		
May	4.5	2.0	0.3e	2.2e	3.7	10.4	5.2		
June	5.2	1.5	0.1e	1.6e	3.2	10.0	5.3		
2d quarter	3.7	5.0	0.7e	5.7e	11.1	20.5	5.3	15.2e	0.076e
July	5.3	1.3	0.1e	1.4e	4.8	11.5	6.5		
August	6.6	1.2	0.1e	1.3e	2.6	10.5	6.1		
September	6.1	1.4	0.1e	1.5e	3.7	11.2	5.9		
3d quarter	5.3	3.9	0.3e	4.2e	11.1	20.6	5.9	14.7e	0.074e
October	5.9	1.5	0.1e	1.5e	4.2	11.6	6.4		
November	6.4	1.1	0.1e	1.2e	4.3	11.9	6.7		
December	6.7	0.8	0.1e	0.9e	4.7	12.4	7.6		
4th quarter	5.9	3.4	0.3e	3.7e	13.2	22.7	7.6	15.2e	0.076e
Year	6.5	15.2	2.4e	17.5e	46.6	70.7	7.6	63.1e	0.316e
1969									
January	7.6	0.9	0.2e	1.1e	4.4	13.1	8.1		
February	8.1	0.8	0.2e	1.0e	3.9	13.0	9.2p		
March	9.2p	1.3	0.3e	1.5e	5.4	16.2	7.3p		
1st quarter	7.6	2.9	0.7e	3.6	13.7	24.9	7.3p	17.6e	0.088e

1/ - Edible weight. p - Preliminary. e - Estimated. Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

COD

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Modest Increase in Landings

New England fishermen landed about 81 percent of the U.S. cod in 1968. Landings were 57.3 million pounds, round weight. New England landings were 46.4 million pounds--up 3.5 million pounds from 1967 (table 21). Pacific cod landings were 11 million pounds--2.6 million pounds below 1967.

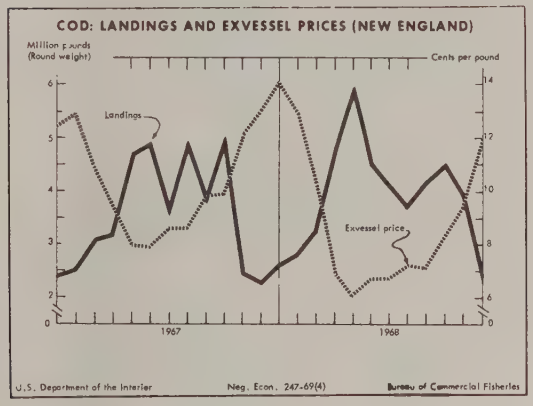


Figure 20

Sharp Increase in Imports

Imports of fresh and frozen cod, excluding blocks, were a record high of 46.6 million pounds in 1968. The previous record was 40.8 million pounds in 1966. In 1967, imports of cod fillets were 32.1 million pounds.

Cod imports from Canada increased in poundage compared with 1967, but Canada's share dropped from 67 percent of the total United States cod imports in 1967 to 56 percent in 1968. Iceland exported 16.1 million pounds of cod to the United States in 1968, thus contributing 35 percent of the share and doubling its amount from the year before.

Holdings Dropped

Last year's cod holdings were consistently below those in 1967. Beginning stocks of 6.5 million pounds were just half the amount of the previous year. Holdings dropped fast in the first quarter and reached a low of 3.7 million pounds at the beginning of the second quarter. Stocks gradually built up to 7.6 million pounds at the beginning of 1969 (table 22).

In Canada, at the beginning of 1968, cod holdings were at a low of 1.9 million pounds; by the end of the year, Canadian stocks were 4.8 million pounds (table 22).

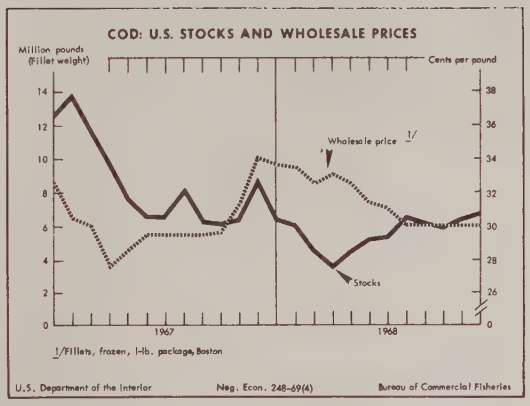


Figure 21

Demand--1968

Consumption Record High

Total consumption of cod continued to increase in 1968 and reached a record high of 63.1 million pounds fillet weight (table 21). The jump of 8.1 million pounds on top of the previous record (an increase of 14.7 percent) raised the consumption of cod in 1968 to above those of haddock and Pacific halibut for the first time in the last decade.

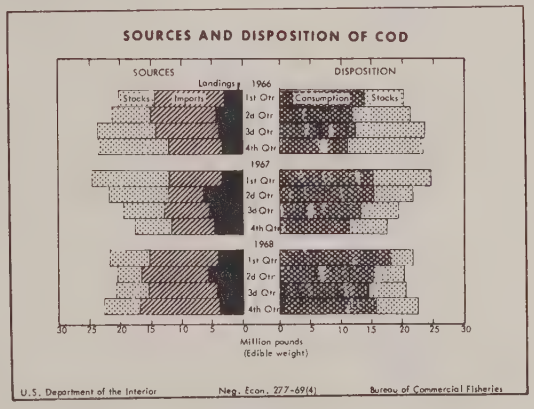


Figure 22

Price Movements Mixed

Exvessel prices of cod were down in 1968, while wholesale and retail prices were up. Cod exvessel prices in winter were twice those in summer. They reached a peak of 14.1 cents a pound in January and hit a low of 6 cents per pound in May. The annual average for 1968 was 8.9 cents per pound--a drop of 13.6 percent from 1967 (table 23).

Wholesale prices for frozen fillets (1-lb. package) began with a high of 33.7 cents per pound in January last year. They dropped gradually each month until they reached the level of 30 cents per pound in August and held at that level through February 1969. The annual average was 31.5 cents per pound, about 4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Retail prices for fresh fillets in New York City rose more than the fresh steaks. The monthly average of 82.7 cents a pound for fresh fillets in 1968 was 10 percent above the average of 1967. The retail price of fresh steaks increased slightly to 70 cents a pound in 1968, a rise of about 5 percent from 1967.

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

Cod landings have increased steadily since 1965. The Bureau's annual groundfish survey reveals that cod abundance is expected to continue as good in 1969 as in 1968.

Total U.S. cod landings from both coasts are expected to be about 10 million pounds, fillet weight, for the first half of the year.

The increase of cod abundance has resulted in increased catches by other countries fishing in the North Atlantic. Their catches went up more than U.S. landings. Consequently, imports increased faster than domestic landings--a 45-percent increase in cod imports versus a 5-percent increase in domestic landings in 1968. If demand for cod continues strong this year, imports may reach 23 million pounds, edible weight, during the first half of this year, slightly more than last year. Including beginning storage stocks, about 41 million pounds of cod fillets would be available in the United States during the first 6 months of 1969.

Demand--First Half of 1969

After a brisk increase in consumption in 1968, a milder surge in sales is likely in 1969.

Consumption of cod is affected both by its own price and the price of haddock. This effect will be more apparent in the coming year when quantities of haddock are limited. Although cod prices have risen a little, consumption has increased much faster. This increase is probably due to the substitution of cod for the increasingly higher priced haddock.

High haddock prices in 1969 likely will boost the sales of cod fillets again, unless cod prices became too high. Sales of cod fillets during the first half of this year are likely to be about 35 million pounds, slightly above the year-ago level, if prices of cod and haddock stay at their March-April level and prices of other food items move in line with their normal trends.

With expected disappearance of 34 to 35 million pounds of cod fillets out of 41 million pounds available during the first half of 1969 would leave an inventory of 6 to 7 million pounds on July 1, 1969. This would be a normal inventory level for cod curing the middle of the year.

Table 21. First-of-month cold storage holdings of cod fillets in the United States and Canada 1967-69

Month	United States			Canada 1/			Total		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds								
January	12.7	6.5	7.6	4.5	1.9	4.8	17.2	8.4	12.4
February	13.7	6.1	8.1	4.5	1.8	4.5p	18.2	7.8	12.5p
March	11.7	4.6	9.2p	4.1	1.7	4.5p	15.8	6.3	13.7p
April	9.6	3.7	7.3p	3.5	1.8	3.2p	13.1	5.5	10.5p
May	7.6	4.5	8.1p	2.8	3.1		10.5	7.6	
June	6.6	5.2		3.1	4.4		9.7	9.6	
July	6.5	5.3		4.1	5.4		10.6	10.7	
August	8.1	6.6		4.5	5.9		12.6	12.5	
September	6.3	6.1		3.8	5.9		10.2	12.0	
October	6.1	5.9		3.7	5.9		9.8	11.8	
November	6.3	6.4		2.5	5.9		8.9	12.3	
December	8.7	6.7		2.5	4.7		11.2	11.4	

1/ - Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
p - Preliminary.

Table 22. Monthly exvessel, wholesale and retail prices of cod, 1967-69

Month	Exvessel price[1]			Wholesale price[2]			Retail price[3]					
							Fillet fresh			Steak fresh		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound											
January	12.4	14.1	11.1	32.5	33.7	30.0	-	87.6	82.8	72.4	72.8	69.5
February	12.9	12.9	12.8	30.7	33.6	30.0	72.0	82.3	80.8	71.5	69.5	72.8
March	10.8	10.2	9.7	30.0	32.5	31.0	73.2	86.8	89.8	67.6	75.5	72.1
April	9.4	6.8	7.6	27.5	33.0	31.4	75.2	85.1	88.2	67.5	69.4	69.0
May	7.9	6.0		28.6	32.5		71.5	80.9		63.5	67.0	
June	7.9	6.7		29.5	31.5		70.6	80.2		62.0	67.4	
July	8.6	6.7		29.5	31.1		72.0	80.8		62.5	67.4	
August	8.6	7.2		29.5	30.0		73.0	76.5		64.0	67.0	
September	9.8	7.1		29.5	30.0		84.0	80.0		66.0	69.8	
October	9.9	8.4		29.6	30.0		81.5	81.0		63.8	72.4	
November	12.2	9.4		31.5	30.0		81.8	83.0		68.0	71.5	
December	13.1	11.9		34.0	30.0		73.6	87.8		72.3	70.8	
Average	10.3	8.9		30.2	31.5		75.3	82.7		66.8	70.0	

1/ Average price of principal New England ports.
2/ Fillet, frozen, 1-lb. package, at Boston, Mass.
3/ At New York, N.Y.

Table 23. Sources and disposition of pollock and cusk annually 1960-67 and monthly 1968

Year	Sources					Disposition		
	Beginning stock[1]	Landings: Pollock	Landings: Cusk	Imports[2]	Total	Ending stock[1]	Apparent consumption: Total	Apparent consumption: per capita
	Million pounds[3]							Pounds
1960	1.7	7.8	0.7	3.7	13.8	1.3	12.5	0.070
1961	1.3	7.5	0.7	4.5	14.0	1.4	12.6	0.069
1962	1.4	5.7	0.7	4.9	12.6	1.0	11.6	0.062
1963	1.0	5.1	0.7	4.4	11.3	1.0	10.3	0.054
1964	1.0	4.7	0.8	4.2	10.7	0.8	9.9	0.052
1965	0.8	4.2	0.8	3.7	9.4	2.0	7.3	0.038
1966	2.0	2.3	0.8	4.6	9.8	1.0	8.8	0.045
1967	1.0	2.1	0.6	4.3	8.1	0.9	7.2	0.036
1968								
January	0.9	0.3	*	0.8	2.0	0.8		
February	0.8	0.1	*	0.2	1.1	0.5		
March	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.6		
1st quarter	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.2	2.8	0.6	2.2	0.011
April	0.6	0.1	*	0.3	1.0	0.5		
May	0.5	0.1	*	0.3	0.9	0.5		
June	0.5	0.1	-	0.3	0.9	0.6		
2d quarter	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.9	2.0	0.6	1.4	0.007
July	0.6	0.1	*	0.5	1.2	0.6		
August	0.6	0.1	*	0.1	0.8	0.7		
September	0.7	0.2	-	0.5	1.4	0.7		
3d quarter	0.6	0.4	0.1	1.2	2.3	0.7	1.6	0.008
October	0.7	0.2	-	0.6	1.5	0.7		
November	0.7	0.3	*	0.7	1.7	1.0		
December	1.0	0.3	*	0.8	2.0	1.0		
4th quarter	0.7	0.9	0.1	2.1	3.7	1.0	2.7	0.013
Year	0.9	2.2	0.5	5.4	8.9	1.0	7.9	0.039
1969								
January	0.9	0.8	*	0.4	2.2	1.0		
February	1.0	0.5	*	0.3	1.9	1.2p		
March	1.2p	0.9	0.1	0.3	2.3	0.9p		
1st quarter	0.9	2.2	0.1	1.0	4.3	0.9p	3.3	0.017

1/ - Pollock only.
2/ - Includes pollock, hake and cusk.
3/ - Edible weight.
* - Less than 50,000 pounds.
p - Preliminary.

POLLOCK AND CUSK

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Landings Down

Landings of pollock and cusk combined were the lowest among groundfish. Landings of 2.7 million pounds, fillet weight, in 1968 were equivalent to only 4 percent of flounder landings. In the early 1960's, fishermen landed 6 to 9 million pounds of these two species. For the last 5 years, landings averaged 4.4 million pounds. Landings in 1968 were the same as in the previous year, and 40 percent below the average of the last 5 years (table 24). Pollock and cusk have never been important segments of New England fisheries and their importance has declined further in recent years. Catches of both species have become more incidental in the fisheries for other groundfish.

Imports Up

The U.S. Bureau of Customs groups imports of both species, which increased from an average of 4.2 million pounds a year during the past 5 years to 5.4 million pounds in 1968--a jump of almost 29 percent. Based on fillet weights the import volume was double domestic landings (table 24).

Imports of the two species show no definite trend. From 1960 to 1962, imports increased considerably and then dropped for 3 consecutive years. The increase of imports in the last 3 years was not large enough to compensate for the decline in landings.

Holdings Lower

Beginning holdings in 1968 were below 1 million pounds. Storage stocks declined during the second and third quarters. The unusually heavy landings in the fourth quarter built up the stocks again to 1 million pounds at the end of 1968 (table 24).

Demand--1968

Consumption of pollock and cusk was 7.9 million pounds, fillet weight, in 1968 (table 24)--an increase of 0.7 million pounds from the previous year. Wholesale prices for the 1-pound package fillets remained unchanged at 26 cents per pound throughout 1967 and 1968. Compared with 1966 prices, they were 1.7 cents lower per pound (table 25).

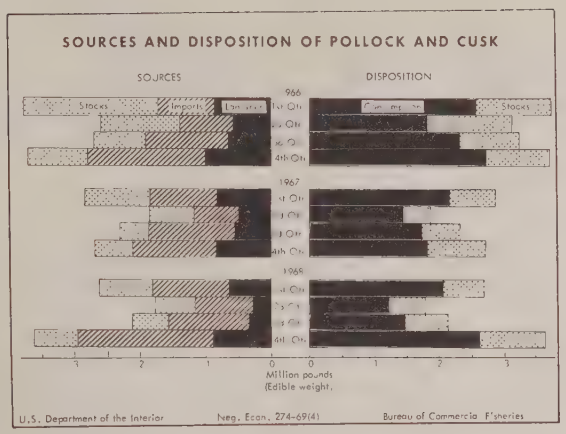


Figure 23

OUTLOOK

Supply--1969

Landings of pollock, and especially cusk, have depended more on the incidental catches of groundfishing vessels. Since the abundance of haddock is declining, prospects are for an upturn in the landings of pollock and cusk--especially pollock. Landings in the first half of 1969 are expected to be considerably higher than a year ago. During the first quarter landings were 2.3 million pounds, edible weight, compared with 2.7 million pounds for the entire year of 1968.

Exvessel prices of pollock were higher in 1968--8.9 cents per pound compared with 8.3 cents in 1967. Cusk prices at the dockside also increased at a similar rate from 8.3 cents to 8.9 cents per pound. Increasing prices could provide incentive for large landings and so encourage a fishery that would aim at harvesting pollock.

Demand--First Half of 1969

Over 5 million pounds, edible weight, of pollock and cusk are expected to be sold during the first half of 1969. During the first quarter, 3.2 million pounds were marketed. Sales in the second quarter are seasonally lower than in other quarters.

Wholesale prices of pollock have stayed at 26 cents a pound for the past 30 months. This stable level reveals a rigid price structure which is insensitive to amounts sold. One of the reasons for the stability is that pollock sales were not large enough--an average of about 0.7 million pounds a month for the last 3 years--to influence a price change.

Greater pollock sales are probable in view of the currently decreasing quantity of available haddock compared with the underutilized quantity of pollock. Fishermen who switch from haddock to pollock will need expanded markets for the latter. The Bureau has initiated a program to help the industry to develop a market and, thus, provide an opportunity to utilize the resource more fully. At the present time, efforts are geared primarily to the Northeast.

Table 24. Monthly exvessel and wholesale prices of pollock and exvessel prices of cusk in the United States, 1966-69

Month	Pollock								Cusk			
	Exvessel price[1]				Wholesale price[2]				Exvessel price[1]			
	1966	1967	1968	1969	1966	1967	1968	1969	1966	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound											
January	8.6	10.0	8.8	7.6	28.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	7.3	13.0	14.1	10.0
February	12.4	11.1	10.2	9.8	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	8.6	11.2	10.1	10.3
March	8.8	9.5	13.4	7.9	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	7.1	8.6	11.9	9.3
April	8.4	9.0	12.1	9.0	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	6.2	7.2	6.2	5.6
May	7.8	9.0	9.7		29.0	26.0	26.0		6.9	6.7	5.8	
June	11.4	8.9	8.6		28.0	26.0	26.0		6.7	7.0	5.5	
July	10.1	9.8	8.0		28.0	26.0	26.0		8.9	6.0	6.0	
August	5.5	6.5	7.2		29.0	26.0	26.0		7.1	5.4	8.1	
September	9.3	6.2	6.8		26.0	26.0	26.0		9.2	8.1	6.4	
October	9.1	5.8	7.8		26.0	26.0	26.0		10.1	6.1	8.8	
November	6.5	7.1	7.0		26.0	26.0	26.0		6.3	7.3	9.4	
December	5.7	7.1	7.6		26.0	26.0	26.0		7.8	11.1	11.8	
Average	8.6	8.3	8.9		27.7	26.0	26.0		7.7	8.1	8.7	

1/ Boston.
2/ Fillets, 1-pound package, Boston.

GREENLAND TURBOT

FDA Changes Commercial Name of Species

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a policy statement for the species Reinhardtius hippoglossoides on December 20, 1968, and formally advised the public and industry that the official name would be Greenland turbot. In recent years this species had been imported under the name "Greenland halibut." The regulation became effective on March 20, 1969. A period of 90 days thereafter, or until June 20, is allowed during which time bulk shipments using the old name of "Greenland halibut" may be shipped in interstate commerce if the cartons or the invoices covering the shipments prominently advise that when repacked or displayed for sale at retail, the product shall be labelled Greenland turbot.

Imports of Greenland turbot stabilized in 1968 after rapid increases in 1966 and 1967. In 1964, less than 200,000 pounds of Greenland turbot blocks were imported. The next year they increased to 3.4 million pounds. Imports of both fillet and block forms amounted to 6.6 million pounds in 1966 and 10.4 million pounds in 1967. More fillets than blocks were imported in 1968; the total was 10.3 million pounds (table 25).

Table 25. Greenland turbot imports at New England[1/] entry points, quarterly for 1964-68

Period	Fillets	Blocks	Total
	---- Thousand pounds ----		
1964			
1st quarter	-	-	-
2d quarter	-	-	-
3d quarter	-	158	158
4th quarter	-	25	25
Year	-	183	183
1965			
1st quarter	-	8	8
2d quarter	-	-	-
3d quarter	-	2,185	2,185
4th quarter	-	1,183	1,183
Year	-	3,376	3,376
1966			
1st quarter	60	617	677
2d quarter	161	468	629
3d quarter	650	1,453	2,103
4th quarter	1,336	1,828	3,164
Year	2,207	4,366	6,573
1967			
1st quarter	607	1,101	1,708
2d quarter	1,039	589	1,628
3d quarter	1,893	1,878	3,771
4th quarter	1,807	1,504	3,311
Year	5,346	5,072	10,418
1968			
1st quarter	1,035	381	1,416
2d quarter	1,472	1,330	2,802
3d quarter	1,317	1,951	3,268
4th quarter	1,697	1,157	2,854
Year	5,521	4,819	10,340

1/ - Mostly Gloucester.
N.A. - Not available.

Table 26. Sources and disposition of frozen fish blocks in the United States, 1962-69

Year	Sources				Disposition	
	Beginning stocks	U.S. freezings	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Disappearance
	Million pounds					
1962	17.7	1.6	143.5	162.8	24.3	138.5
1963	24.3	2.0	153.3	179.6	25.8	153.8
1964	25.8	2.0	166.2	194.0	20.0	174.0
1965	20.0	2.9	214.8	237.7	37.4	200.3
1966	37.4	6.0	206.5	249.9	35.2	214.7
1967	35.2	6.2	189.5	230.9	32.3	198.6
1968						
January	32.3	0.3	22.3	54.9	28.8	
February	28.8	0.2	17.3	46.3	25.9	
March	25.9	0.3	17.8	44.0	22.0	
1st quarter	32.3	0.8	57.3	90.4	22.0	68.4
April	22.0	0.1	21.3	43.4	26.8	
May	26.8	0.4	23.7	50.9	27.0	
June	27.0	0.4	19.4	46.8	27.5	
2d quarter	22.0	1.0	64.4	87.3	27.5	59.9
July	27.5	0.7	30.4	58.7	39.9	
August	39.9	0.3	22.1	62.3	40.9	
September	40.9	0.2	24.0	65.1	41.3	
3d quarter	27.5	1.3	76.6	105.4	41.3	64.0
October	41.3	0.2	22.3	63.8	44.1	
November	44.1	0.2	17.8	62.1	43.4	
December	43.4	0.2	22.7	66.3	44.4	
4th quarter	41.3	0.6	62.8	104.7	44.4	60.6
Year	32.3	3.6	261.1	297.1	44.4	253.0
1969						
January	44.4	0.2	18.0	62.7	37.3	
February	37.3	*	14.6	51.9	32.8	
March	32.8	0.1	22.5	55.3	27.2p	
1st quarter	44.4	0.4	55.1	99.9	27.2p	72.7

Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
* Less than 50,000 pounds.
p - Preliminary.

FISH BLOCKS, STICKS AND PORTIONS

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Supplies of Fish Blocks Reached New High

Over 297 million pounds of fish blocks were available in the U.S. market in 1968--a jump of 66 million pounds from the year earlier level of 231 million pounds and 36 percent higher than the 1963-67 average. Imports provided 261 million pounds or 88 percent of the total available quantity. Only 3.6 million pounds were domestically produced--compared with 6 million pounds in 1966 and 1967 (table 26). The rest was in storage at the beginning of the year.

Imports of blocks in 1968 were 38 percent higher than in 1967 and 40 percent above the last 5-year average. Of the total imports, Canada supplied 106 million pounds; Iceland, 58 million; Norway, 35 million; and Denmark, 22 million. The last three countries doubled their exports to the United States in 1968, whereas Canada increased her export only 10 percent over 1967.

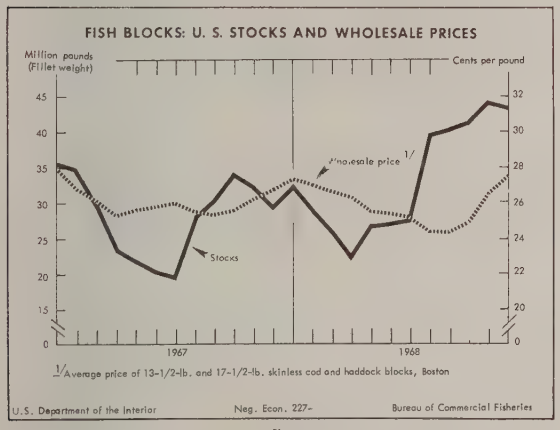

FISH BLOCKS: U. S. STOCKS AND WHOLESALE PRICES
Million pounds (Fillet weight)
Cents per pound
Wholesale price 1/
Stocks
1967
1968
1/Average price of 13-1/2-lb. and 17-1/2-lb. skinless cod and haddock blocks, Boston
U.S. Department of the Interior
Neg. Econ. 227-
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

Figure 24

Blocks Up

Blocks provided 253 million pounds of raw material used for sticks and portions in 1968--a gain of 54.4 million pounds, or 27 percent in volume. Stocks at the end of 1968 were higher than in the previous year because the use of blocks was less than the increase in total supplies during 1968 (table 26).

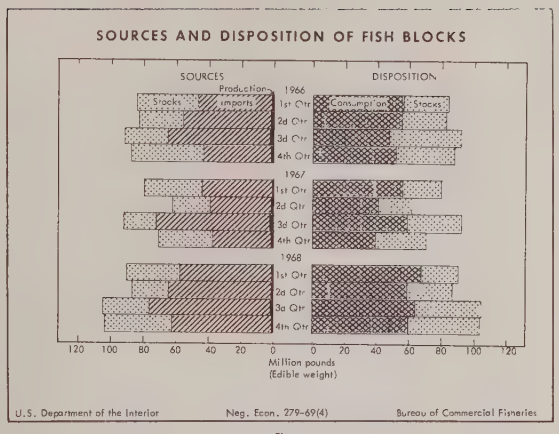


Figure 25

Production of Fish Sticks and Portions Up

The product weight of fish sticks and portions was 270.7 million pounds in 1968--a gain of 38.4 million pounds, or 16.5 percent from the previous year. Compared with the 1963-67 annual average, production rose more than 30 percent (table 27).

Production of fish sticks in 1968 climbed to 91.6 million pounds after 2 consecutive years of declining output. The production of 179.2 million pounds of fish portions was almost twice the amount of sticks. Production of portions rose 13.2 percent between 1967 and 1968, compared with the annual average growth rate of 28 percent for the previous 10 years.

Sticks and Portions Stocks Rose to New High

The inventory was 14 million pounds at the beginning of 1968, and stocks moved out fast in the first 4 months. Stepped-up production from August through October caused a buildup in stocks, which on January 1, 1969, reached a new high of 24 million pounds (tables 27 and 28).

Demand--1968

The sale of 261.6 million pounds of fish sticks and portions in 1968 was an increase of 9.7 percent over 1967, compared with the average annual gain of 14.3 percent from 1960 to 1968 (table 27). The combined production was greater than the total sales and caused a buildup of inventories.

Table 27. Sources and disposition of fish sticks and portions in the United States, 1962-68

Year	Sources					Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	Production: Sticks	Production: Portions	Production: Total	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption: Total	Apparent consumption: Per capita
	Million pounds								Pounds
1962	10.5	72.2	78.7	150.9	0.3	161.7	11.6	150.2	0.807
1963	11.6	79.3	94.6	173.9	0.4	185.9	13.6	172.3	0.912
1964	13.6	73.6	106.3	179.9	0.2	193.7	8.1	185.6	0.969
1965	8.1	82.5	140.5	222.9	0.3	231.3	14.2	217.1	1.120
1966	14.2	81.4	147.6	229.0	0.4	243.6	19.5	224.1	1.144
1967	19.5	73.9	158.3	232.3	0.4	252.2	14.0	238.2	1.204
1968									
January	14.0	8.0	13.9	22.0	0.1	36.0	12.3		
February	12.3	7.5	13.8	21.3	0.1	33.6	12.4		
March	12.4	8.6	16.2	24.8	0.1	37.2	12.0		
1st quarter	14.0	24.1	43.9	68.0	0.2	82.2	12.0	70.2	0.352
April	12.0	7.9	16.2	24.0	0.1	36.1	13.7		
May	13.7	7.2	14.0	21.2	0.1	34.9	15.7		
June	15.7	6.9	14.2	21.1	0.1	36.9	18.4		
2d quarter	12.0	22.0	44.3	66.3	0.2	78.5	18.4	60.1	0.301
July	18.4	5.9	11.5	17.4	0.1	35.9	20.5		
August	20.5	7.4	16.6	24.0	0.1	44.6	20.6		
September	20.6	7.8	15.8	23.6	0.1	44.3	20.6		
3d quarter	18.4	21.1	43.9	65.0	0.2	83.7	20.6	63.0	0.315
October	20.6	8.7	19.3	27.9	0.1	48.7	21.0		
November	21.0	7.8	15.0	22.8	0.1	43.9	21.1		
December	21.1	7.8	12.9	20.7	0.1	41.9	24.0		
4th quarter	20.6	24.3	47.1	71.4	0.3	92.3	24.0	68.3	0.340
Year	14.0	91.6	179.2	270.7	0.9	285.6	24.0	261.6	1.308
1969									
January	24.0	9.7p	18.3p	28.0p	0.1	52.1p	19.2		
February	19.2	9.8p	17.7p	27.5p	0.2	46.9p	19.2		
March	19.2	10.8p	19.0p	29.7p	0.1	49.0p	17.4p		
1st quarter	24.0	30.2p	55.0p	85.3p	0.4	109.6p	17.4p	92.2p	0.459p

p - Preliminary. Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Prices of cod, which constitute about 70 percent of the combined production of sticks and portions, increased slightly from 1967 to 1968, while prices of haddock sticks and portions dropped considerably (table 30).

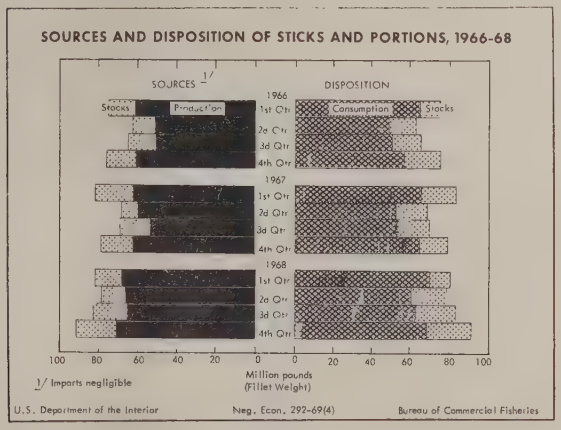


Figure 26

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

On January 1, 1969, there were 44.4 million pounds of fish blocks and 24.0 million pounds of fish sticks and portions in storage in the United States or a total of 68.4 million pounds. This is a record high; however, fish block stocks in Canada were about 3 million pounds below January 1, 1968, and 7 million below January 1, 1967.

Volume of imports is expected to be similar to that of last year--about 120 million pounds for the first half of 1969. During the first quarter, 55 million pounds of fish blocks were imported and we expect 65 million in the second quarter. Canadian fish block stocks were 89 million pounds on January 1, 1969--down about 3 million pounds from a year earlier and 7 million from January 1, 1967.

On April 1, 1969, fish block stocks were down to 27.2 million pounds. With about 1 million pounds of blocks to be produced in the United States in addition to the predicted imports, we expect to have 93 million pounds of blocks available in the United States during the second quarter of 1969.

Demand--First Half of 1969

At the time of this writing we can only estimate what the sales of sticks and portions were during the first quarter. The disappearance of blocks amounted to 72.7 million pounds during the first quarter of 1969, compared with 68.4 million in 1968. The increase in disappearance of fish sticks and portions is even greater because sticks and portions stocks decreased 6.6 million pounds during the first quarter of 1969, compared with 2 million in 1968. The fish block equivalent of the sticks and portions disappearance is about 79 million pounds during the first quarter of 1969, at least 10 percent above 1968.

If prices stay at the same level as in early May we can expect about 65 million pounds of fish blocks to disappear with no changes in inventories of fish sticks and portions. About 28 million pounds of fish blocks would be on hand on July 1, 1969--a fairly normal level for this time of year which is the period when the rate of block utilization and stocks of fish sticks and portions are high. This situation also means a buildup of only 1 million pounds of fish blocks, sticks and portions during the second quarter. In 1968, storage stocks of fish blocks, sticks, and portions built up to 12 million pounds during the second quarter compared with 4 million in 1967.

Canadian stocks were also down to 5.5 million pounds on April 1, 1969--the lowest level during 1967, '68, or '69. This is an indication that the level of block imports during the second quarter may not be as high as we expect.

The price margin between cod and haddock blocks has fluctuated greatly in the past years. During the first quarter of 1969, the margin was about 13.5 cents a pound, the largest it has ever been. This margin will need to be watched in the event of a changing proportion in the available quantities of cod and haddock blocks.

In February the Canadian government announced a fishery policy that could have a major effect on the world market for fish blocks. Canada stands ready to purchase and store blocks of cod and ocean perch to support their price at the 1965-67 average. If prices stay above the support level, the Canadian policy will have no effect on the world market fish blocks. If production increases faster than consumption, however, prices of cod and ocean perch blocks may drop below the Canadian support level. Consequently, stocks of cod and ocean perch blocks could build up in Canada and prices stay at the support level.

Table 28. First-of-month cold storage holdings of frozen fish blocks in the United States and Canada, and sticks and portions in the United States, 1967-69

Month	Blocks									Sticks & portions (U.S.)		
	United States			Canada 1/			Total					
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds											
January	35.2	32.3	44.4	16.7	12.1	8.9	51.9	44.4	53.3	19.5	14.0	24.0
February	34.8	28.8	37.3	12.3	8.6	7.1p	47.1	37.4	44.5p	17.6	12.3	19.2
March	29.6	25.9	32.8	9.6	8.1	6.1p	39.2	34.0	38.9p	15.5	12.3	19.2
April	23.3	22.0	27.2p	8.6	6.3	5.5p	31.9	28.3	32.7p	14.1	12.0	17.4p
May	21.9	26.8	26.6p	7.9	7.6		29.8	34.4		16.3	13.7	15.9p
June	20.1	27.6		9.5	11.6		29.6	37.6		16.3	15.7	
July	19.8	27.5		16.2	19.9		36.0	47.4		14.9	18.4	
August	28.1	39.9		20.0	23.5		48.1	63.5		14.6	20.5	
September	30.3	40.1		19.6	23.3		49.9	63.4		14.6	20.6	
October	34.0	41.3		19.3	21.0		53.3	62.3		15.5	20.6	
November	32.2	44.1		16.0	15.2		48.2	60.3		14.2	21.0	
December	29.1	43..		15.9	11.2		45.0	54.7		13.7	21.1	

1/ - Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
p - Preliminary.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 29. U.S. monthly import prices of cod and haddock blocks, 1965-68

Species/ Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents per pound											
Cod												
1965	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	23.8	24.2	24.5	N.A.	24.7	24.4	25.0	24.6	25.7
1966	25.1	25.5	26.8	N.A.	24.9	25.0	24.7	23.8	24.0	24.8	22.4	23.7
1967	23.6	24.0	22.8	22.0	22.7	22.6	21.8	21.2	21.3	20.9	22.1	21.8
1968	21.5	23.6	23.0	22.2	22.3	22.0	21.4	20.7	20.1	20.1	19.3	19.7
1969	19.7	19.8	19.6									
Haddock												
1965	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	27.1	28.8	26.0	N.A.	25.3	25.6	26.4	27.4	27.9
1966	29.1	29.4	28.4	N.A.	29.7	26.1	30.4	27.6	27.0	31.2	29.3	31.9
1967	30.6	28.4	29.4	30.2	29.3	27.9	24.6	26.9	25.7	26.8	25.9	28.0
1968	25.4	26.3	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.5	26.2	25.5	25.4	23.8	23.1	25.3
1969	24.5	24.6	25.3									

N.A. - Not available.
Note - Prices are derived from quantity and value of imports.
Source - Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 30. Monthly prices to primary wholesalers: cod and haddock blocks, sticks and portions at Boston, Mass., 1966-69

Species/ year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year average
						Cents per pound							
Cod blocks:													
1966	29.5	29.5	29.0	29.0	28.5	28.0	27.8	27.0	26.1	25.3	24.3	23.0	27.3
1967	23.0	21.5	21.0	21.1	22.5	23.0	23.5	23.5	23.8	24.3	25.1	25.8	23.2
1968	26.6	26.2	25.5	24.8	24.2	23.5	22.5	21.3	21.3	21.3	21.4	21.4	23.3
1969	21.2	21.2	21.5	23.3									
Haddock blocks													
1966	36.5	35.0	35.0	34.5	34.5	34.7	35.0	34.6	33.8	33.5	33.3	33.0	34.4
1967	33.0	32.0	31.0	29.4	28.9	28.5	28.5	27.5	26.8	26.9	27.1	27.5	28.9
1968	27.9	28.0	27.8	27.5	27.2	27.5	27.9	27.5	27.5	28.5	30.4	33.5	28.4
1969	34.4	35.1	34.9	35.1									
						Dollars per dozen packages							
Cod sticks, breaded cooked, in 8-oz. pkgs.													
1966	3.45	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.49
1967	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.22	3.20	3.32	3.32	3.32	3.18	3.13	3.13	3.18	3.27
1968	3.34	3.38	3.38	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.29	3.32	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.29
1969	3.30	3.27	3.18	3.18									
Haddock sticks, breaded cooked, in 8-oz pkgs.													
1966	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.83	3.83	3.83	3.83	3.83
1967	3.83	3.83	3.83	3.73	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.78	3.73	3.73	3.73	3.78
1968	3.68	3.60	3.60	3.55	3.53	3.53	3.52	3.51	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.55
1969	3.53	3.54	3.56	3.58									
						Cents per pound							
Cod portions, raw breaded, 2-4 oz. portions													
1966	40.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	39.0	38.9	39.2	39.5	40.1
1967	37.5	37.0	37.0	35.0	34.4	37.0	37.0	36.2	36.4	36.7	37.8	39.0	36.8
1968	38.9	39.5	38.5	38.5	37.7	37.5	38.3	37.8	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.9
1969	37.0	36.6	36.3	37.6									
Haddock portions, raw breaded, 2-4 oz. portions													
1966	45.5	46.0	46.0	46.0	47.8	46.8	46.8	47.3	47.5	47.5	47.3	45.5	46.7
1967	45.5	45.5	45.5	44.5	43.0	45.5	45.5	43.8	43.5	43.3	43.8	43.5	44.4
1968	43.2	42.0	42.5	40.3	41.6	42.0	41.6	41.5	41.5	41.7	41.5	41.5	41.7
1969	41.5	43.5	45.8	45.1									

Table 31. Sources and disposition of Pacific halibut in the United States, 1962-69

Year	Sources				Disposition		
	Beginning stocks	Landings	Imports	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption	
						Total	Per capita
	Million pounds[1]						Pounds
1962	13.8	40.4	34.9	89.0	22.6	66.5	0.357
1963	22.6	34.3	29.4	86.3	25.4	60.9	0.323
1964	25.4	26.3	30.3	82.0	15.8	66.3	0.346
1965	15.8	30.4	30.0	76.2	17.4	58.8	0.304
1966	17.4	30.4	27.4	75.2	20.7	54.5	0.278
1967	20.7	30.1	26.1	76.9	19.3	57.6	0.292
1968							
January	19.3	-	1.6	20.9	15.2		
February	15.2	-	1.7	17.0	12.0		
March	12.0	-	1.9	13.9	9.5		
1st quarter	19.3	-	5.3	24.5	9.5	15.1	0.076
April	9.5	0.6	2.3	12.3	7.3		
May	7.3	5.4	2.9	15.6	12.3		
June	12.3	3.6	3.2	19.1	14.5		
2d quarter	9.5	9.5	8.4	27.3	14.5	12.8	0.064
July	14.5	3.5	3.0	21.1	16.2		
August	16.2	3.0	3.5	22.6	17.9		
September	17.9	1.9	3.9	23.7	17.6		
3d quarter	14.5	8.4	10.3	33.3	17.6	15.7	0.079
October	17.6	1.1	4.4	23.1	16.4		
November	16.4	0.4	2.0	18.8	15.6		
December	15.6	-	2.6	18.2	13.7		
4th quarter	17.6	1.5	9.0	28.1	13.7	14.3	0.071
Year	19.3	19.4	33.0	71.8	13.7	58.0	0.290
1969							
January	13.7	-	1.5	15.2	11.4		
February	11.4	-	1.7	13.1	7.3		
March	7.3	-	3.2	10.9	5.6p		
1st quarter	13.7	-	6.5	20.1	5.6p	14.5	0.072

1/ - The sum of dressed, fillets, and steaks, after conversion to dressed weight.
p - Preliminary.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

HALIBUT

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Supplies of halibut were 71.8 million pounds, dressed weight, 5 million pounds, or 7 percent, lower than in the previous year and 10 percent below the most recent 5-year average. U.S. landings dropped to 19.4 million pounds, about two-thirds the amount landed in 1967, while imports increased to 33 million pounds--one-quarter higher than a year ago. Beginning inventories in 1968 were lower than in 1967.

Landings--Very Low

The combined landings of 48.4 million pounds of Pacific halibut by United States and Canadian vessels were 10 million pounds below quota and 6.8 million pounds behind the relatively low production of 1967. Landings were the lowest since 1936, when the combined fleets landed 48.1 million pounds. U.S. vessels landed only 37 percent of the total. For 2 consecutive years, combined halibut landings failed to reach the quota set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, even though the quota was lowered each year. One feature was that the combined landings at Washington ports reached 12.7 million pounds in 1968, after having continuously risen since the record low of 8.2 million pounds in 1966 (table 32).

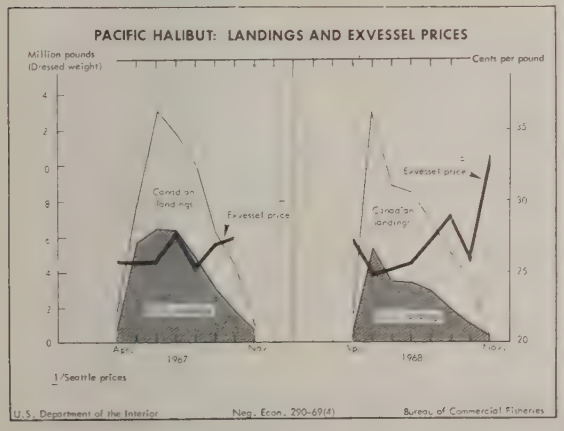


Figure 27

Imports--Highest Since 1963

Imports of halibut were 33 million pounds (dressed weight) in 1968--26 percent higher than the previous year and 15 percent higher than the last 5-year average. Imports of halibut come primarily from Canada. Imports were heavy during June through October when Canadian halibut landings in British Columbia were also heavy (table 31).

Holdings Low

U.S. cold storage holdings of halibut in 1968 were lower than in 1967, while Canadian holdings were about even with 1967. Inventories were 19.3 million pounds at the beginning of 1968 and declined to 7.3 million pounds in May--the beginning of the halibut season. Increasing landings and imports in later months built up the stocks again to near 18 million pounds before they dropped to 13.7 million pounds at the start of 1969 (table 33). This is the lowest January 1 holdings in the last 7 years.

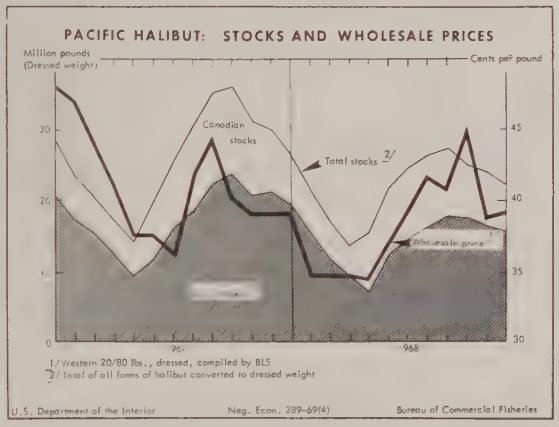

PACIFIC HALIBUT: STOCKS AND WHOLESALE PRICES
Million pounds (Dressed weight)
Cents per pound
Canadian stocks
Total stocks 2/
Wholesale price
1/Western 20/80 lbs., dressed, compiled by BLS
2/Total of all forms of halibut converted to dressed weight
U.S. Department of the Interior
Neg. Econ. 289-69(4)
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

Figure 28

Demand--1968

Consumption Slightly Higher

Halibut sales in 1968 were fractionally higher than in 1967. The apparent consumption of 58 million pounds, dressed weight, was a definite improvement from the low of 54.5 million pounds in 1966, but still about 3 percent below the most recent 5-year average.

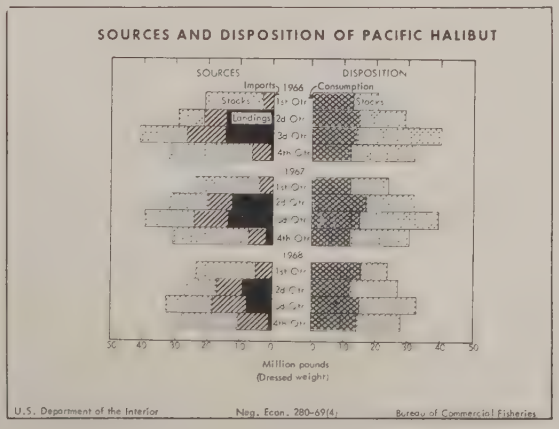


Figure 29

Table 32. Landings of halibut on the Pacific Coast by United States and Canadian vessels, 1966-68

Coastal Section	1966			1967			1968		
	U.S.	Canada	Total	U.S.	Canada	Total	U.S.	Canada	Total
	Million pounds[1]								
Oregon	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
Washington	5.2	3.0	8.2	9.4	1.0	10.4	9.1	3.6	12.7
South British Columbia		6.3	6.3	-	9.0	9.0	-	8.4	8.4
North British Columbia	0.6	18.2	18.8	0.3	10.0	10.3	0.1	13.5	13.6
Southeast Alaska	18.1	0.8	18.9	15.7	1.6	17.3	8.2	0.6	8.8
Central Alaska	6.4	3.6	10.0	4.4	3.9	8.3	1.8	3.0	4.8
Total[2]	30.4	31.9	62.3	29.9	25.6	55.5	19.3	29.1	48.4p

1/ - Dressed weight.
2/ - Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
p - Preliminary.

Table 33. First-of-month cold storage holdings of halibut in the United States and Canada 1967-69[1]

Month	United States			Canada[2]			Total		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds								
January	20.7	19.3	13.7	9.2	9.7	6.9	29.8	29.0	20.6
February	17.4	15.2	11.4	8.1	7.7	6.3p	25.5	22.9	17.7p
March	15.4	12.0	7.3p	6.3	6.5	4.3p	21.7	18.5	11.6p
April	12.5	9.5	5.6p	5.1	5.5	2.4p	17.6	15.0	8.1p
May	9.6	7.3	3.3p	4.9	4.7		14.5	12.0	
June	11.9	12.3		4.9	8.4		16.7	20.7	
July	16.1	14.5		8.4	9.9		24.6	24.5	
August	18.6	16.2		9.7	10.3		28.3	26.5	
September	22.6	17.9		12.3	10.5		34.9	28.4	
October	23.9	17.6		*	9.7		-	27.3	
November	20.9	16.4		12.5	9.4		33.4	25.8	
December	21.0	15.6		10.6	8.0		31.6	23.6	

1/ Sum of dressed halibut, together with fillets and steaks converted to dressed weight.
2/ Industry Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
* Kept confidential by Canadian reports.
p- Preliminary.

Fishermen's Receipts Differ by Area

As usual, exvessel prices in Alaska were lower than those in Washington and British Columbia. They averaged 20.3 cents per pound at Ketchikan, compared with 23.2 cents at Prince Rupert and 28.3 cents at Seattle (tables 32 and 34). U.S. fishermen landed over 9 million pounds of halibut in Washington.

Prices Weaker at the Wholesale Level

The wholesale price of fresh and frozen dressed halibut at New York declined from 41.4 cents a pound in 1967 to 38.2 cents last year--an 8 percent drop. August through October were the only months in which prices remained strong when the sales increased (tables 31 and 34).

Retail prices of halibut steak at New York last year averaged 90.3 cents a pound--fractionally higher than the average of 89.8 cents in 1967. Higher prices were registered in the second quarter when supplies were seasonally low--92.2 to 93.2 cents a pound (table 34).

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

Continuous Depressed Landings Could be Arrested

The quota for Pacific halibut landings was cut to 55.5 million pounds for 1969--the lowest since 1960. Fishing effort will have to increase to achieve this relatively low quota. In 1968, the Canadian-American fleet had 307 vessels compared with 400 in 1967. Many left to fish for more profitable species as salmon and albacore tuna. If exvessel prices continue higher in 1969 at Seattle and other Washington ports, some vessels may return to the halibut fishery. All these factors provide an incentive for increasing the fishing effort over 1968. A near quota catch of 51 to 53 million pounds could be expected--about 3 to 4 million pounds over 1968. The U.S. vessels are expected to catch a little over 10 million pounds during the first half of 1969.

Low Holdings and Same Imports Exported

After 4 years of consecutive declines, imports in 1968 were the highest since 1962. They likely will remain about the same this year. Should Canadian production be low during the coming season, the United States imports from the Scandinavian countries may increase.

At the beginning of 1969, U.S. holdings of halibut were at the lowest level since 1963. Canadian holdings were seasonally lower toward the end of 1968, as more were exported to the United States. U.S. stocks moved out fast during the first quarter of this year before the fishing season started.

Demand--First Half of 1969

Halibut consumption in 1969 may come close to the low level reached in 1966. Sales of 26 to 27 million pounds, dressed weight, for the first half of 1969 are expected.

About 80 percent of the changes in halibut consumption tend to be influenced by halibut prices and 20 percent by changes in prices of other fish products and other influences.

During the first quarter of 1969 about 14.5 million pounds of dressed halibut were used in the United States. This rate of consumption brought stocks down to 5.6 million pounds in the United States and 24 million in Canada. The combined stocks were only half the amount reached on April 1, 1967 and 1968. This low level of stocks will probably drain the pipeline before the first arrival of halibut landings at the beginning of the season.

The level of prices in the current production season will respond to the level of landings this summer, the rate of consumption and the availability of imports. The exvessel prices of the new season rose to 36.4 cents a pound and the wholesale price to 43 cents in April. In light of the current halibut shortages, these high prices at both levels may prevail during the early part of the production season until more imports will come from Canada as well as the Scandinavian countries.

Table 34. Monthly exvessel, wholesale, and retail prices of Pacific halibut, 1967-69

Month	Exvessel price[1]									Wholesale price[2]			Retail price[3]		
	Seattle			Ketchikan			Prince Rupert								
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Cents per pound														
January	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48.0	39.0	41.3	89.0	88.1	86.0
February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47.0	34.5	41.3	81.0	87.5	91.5
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44.0	34.5	43.0	88.0	91.5	90.3
April	25.8	27.2	36.4p	-	-		-	22.6		41.0	34.5		90.0	93.2	86.6
May	25.7	24.8		20.4	20.0		24.7	24.4		37.5	34.3		89.0	92.7	
June	25.8	25.1		22.2	19.8		24.4	22.7		37.5	37.2		94.0	92.2	
July	26.8	25.7		21.6	20.5			22.9		36.0	39.4		95.0	89.5	
August	25.2	27.4		20.7	21.0		24.4	-		42.0	41.6		88.0	89.8	
September	27.0	29.0		22.2	-		24.6	-		44.5	40.6		92.0	88.0	
October	27.5	25.8		-	-		25.6	-		40.8	45.2		91.0	89.1	
November	-	33.7		-	-		-	-		39.0	38.5		91.0	93.0	
December	-			-	-		-	-		39.0	39.0		90.0	89.0	
Average	26.3	28.3		21.4	20.3		24.7	23.2		41.4	38.2		89.8	90.3	

1/ - Weighted average price for medium size.
2/ - Dressed form, fresh or frozen, at New York, N.Y.
3/ - Steak form, fresh at New York, N.Y.
p - Preliminary

CANNED SALMON

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Landings Especially Good for Pink Salmon

Salmon landings were much better than 1967, which had a drastic decline. The harvest of 302.7 million pounds, round weight, was 86 million pounds, or 40 percent, more than in 1967 but still 4 percent below the average landings of the last 5 years (table 36).

Over 35 percent of the landings were pink salmon. Landings of red salmon have been low in the last 2 years and were only 18 percent of the total in 1968. Landings of other species were about the same as in 1966 but higher than in 1967.

Pack--Heavy in Pink Salmon and the Standard Size Cases

Over half the canned salmon were pinks and over three-quarters were packed in cases of 48 one-pound tall cans, the standard case size for salmon. Of the total canned salmon pack of 3.43 million standard cases, 1.54 million cases were pink, 0.6 million cases were chum, and 0.45 million cases were red salmon. Over three-quarters of the king salmon were packed in ½-pound cans.

Of the total shipments of canned salmon during the second half of 1968, 48.5 percent were pinks, 30.7 percent reds, and over 20 percent split among chum, coho, and king salmons. The pack of pink salmon was predominately in 48 one-pound cans; other species were packed in various can sizes.

Exports Exceeded Imports

Exports of canned salmon were 768,000 pounds more than imports in 1968. In the first 6 months, however, more were imported. In the second half-year 2.9 million pounds were exported, while less than 335,000 pounds were imported. The overall net exports were 16,000 standard cases, compared to 427,000 standard cases in 1967 (table 35). Canned exports to the United Kingdom declined from 16.3 million pounds in 1967 to 3.3 million in 1968—a decrease of 80 percent. The devaluation of the English pound was the major factor contributing to the cut.

Exports of fresh and frozen salmon for 1968 were 6.4 million pounds greater than imports in dressed weight, compared with 10.1 million pounds for 1967 (table 37). Most of the exports of fresh and frozen salmon went to France and Japan, whereas imports came almost entirely from Canada.

Carryover of Salmon Stocks in 1968 was Low

The carryover of canned salmon in the hands of canners and distributors on January 1, 1968 was 2,087,000 standard cases--1,325,000 cases less than the previous year. By July 1, 1968, stocks had dropped to 987,000 standard cases, nearly the same as in the previous year. At the beginning of 1969, stocks held by both canners and distributors rose to 2,746,000 standard cases--658,700 cases higher than the beginning stocks of 1968. Increased production in 1968 resulted in a bigger carryover into 1969 (table 35).

At the beginning of 1968, the carryover of fresh and frozen salmon was 11.7 million pounds, round weight. At the beginning of 1969, 19.8 million pounds were in cold storage (table 36). Exports of fresh and frozen salmon exceeded imports by 7.6 million pounds, round weight.

Demand--1968

Shipments Faster than Year Before

Total shipments of canned salmon from canneries during July 1 to December 31, 1968, were 1,792,000 standard cases, averaging about 300,000 standard cases monthly--9 percent higher than the year before. Shipments during the first half of the calendar year are usually lower because production is low. Shipments in January and February 1969 were 622,000 standard cases from the canners' stocks, compared with 394,000 standard cases in the comparable period of a year earlier. Exports in fresh and frozen form have exceeded imports since 1964.

Wholesale Prices Firm for Red Salmon

Wholesale prices of canned red salmon were firmer in the latter part of 1968, as prices of pink and chum salmon weakened. Canned reds stayed at $40 a standard case for the first 7 months of 1968. The price rose to $40.70 and $41.00 during August through October, and ended at $40.50 in December (table 38). The less-than-average production of red salmon last year accounted for the price rise.

Prices for pinks and chums declined after August, but their annual averages for 1968 were both ahead of 1967--$32.00 vs. $28.90 for pinks and $28.80 vs. $25.80 per standard case for chums. Compared with 1967, production of chums in 1968 doubled and that of pinks tripled. The wholesale price of canned king salmon remained unchanged from 1967 at $34 a standard case throughout the year.

Table 35. Sources and disposition of canned salmon in the United States, 1967 and 1968

Year/Species	Source				Disposition				
	Beginning stocks				Ending stocks			Apparent consumption	
	Canners	Distributors	Production	Total	Canners	Distributors	Net exports or imports [1]	Total	Per capita
	Thousand standard cases								Pounds
1967-1st half									
King	51.3		43.2		26.0				
Red	1,301.4		315.2		603.7				
Coho	106.8		.2		54.2				
Pink	1,268.3		6.1		472.5				
Chum	263.6		41.5		96.6				
Total	2,991.4	466.0	406.3	3,863.7	1,253.0	416.0	-285.7	1,909.0 (91.63 mil.lbs.)	.464
1967-2d half									
King	26.0		48.4		63.1				
Red	603.7		550.9		876.0				
Coho	54.2		138.9		84.2				
Pink	472.5		610.8		435.9				
Chum	96.6		321.9		207.2				
Total	1,253.0	416.0	1,670.9	3,339.9	1,666.4	421.0	-141.2	1,111.3 (53.34 mil.lbs.)	.269
1968-1st half									
King	63.1		21.3		35.6				
Red	876.0		159.9		443.9				
Coho	84.2		-		30.4				
Pink	435.9		5.9		104.1				
Chum	207.2		19.0		56.9				
Total	1,666.4	421.0	206.1	2,293.5	671.0	316.0	+ 38.0	1,344.5 (64.54 mil.lbs)	.324
1968-2d half									
King	35.6		41.2		56.7				
Red	443.9		585.3		638.3				
Coho	30.4		163.7		104.0				
Pink	104.1		1,794.7		1,035.1				
Chum	56.9		642.0		478.0				
Total	671.0	316.0	3,226.8	4,213.8	2,312.1	434.0	-54.0	1,413.2 [2] (67.86 mil.lbs.)	.339

[1] - Plus for net import and minus for net export.
[2] - Excludes 670 standard cases for non-food uses.

Consumption Dropped in 1968

Total consumption of canned salmon for 1968 was 2,758,000 standard cases, lower than the previous year by 263,000 cases. Consumption in the first half of the year is normally supplied almost entirely from the inventories of canners and distributors. Beginning stocks in 1968 were low. Although stocks were low at the beginning of the canning season, the improved production resulted in supplies of over 2.3 million standard cases for the last half of 1968. Sales in the second half-year were 1.41 million standard cases--only 70,000 standard cases above the first half (table 35).

OUTLOOK

Supply--1969

Preliminary Landings Forecast

Red salmon runs in 1969 will be much better than in 1968, according to State Fish and Game biologists in Alaska. Bristol Bay, the major area for red salmon is expected to produce more than twice the amount harvested in 1968, although runs of red salmon at Cook Inlet may not be as good as they were a year ago.

The salmon fishery will face a poor season for the pinks. Pink salmon usually constitute the bulk of the Southeastern Alaska pack. In 1968, the pink run approached 30 million fish, the largest in 17 years. The 1969 forecast is for only about 8 million pinks and 5 million of these will be needed for spawning stocks. The forecast is based on the poor parent year of 1967, and also on spawning stream studies made by biologists. The forecast for pink runs in other regions ranges from fair to poor. At best, they may match the catch of 1968.

The overall situation on salmon catches in 1969 may be slightly below the harvest of 1968. Chum salmon are expected to be short in the major part of Cook Inlet next summer. King and coho catches are expected to be on the par with 1968, if not slightly better.

Holdings Heavy in Pinks

The current prospect is poor for pink salmon landings this year, so the trade is trying to keep a sufficient amount of canned pinks to buffer the effects of a small pack. Hedging in canned red salmon appears to be minimal, as their movements from the stocks have been doing well in early 1969, and supplies look adequate in the coming season.

Shipment of canned reds of all sizes during the first quarter of this year were 272,600 standard cases--21 percent ahead of last year. As of April 1, stocks of reds stood at 365,650 standard cases--45 percent less than a year ago. The situation for pinks was just the reverse. During the first quarter only 378,600 standard cases of pinks were shipped, compared with 224,000 standard cases a year ago. Canners' stocks of pinks stayed at almost 656,500 standard cases, April 1, 1969--two and a half times the amount in 1968.

Demand--First Half of 1969

Consumption of canned salmon is usually lower in the first half of each calendar year, with the exception of 1967, when the carryover was high. Consumption in 1968 was almost 9 percent lower than in 1967--2,758,000 vs. 3,020,000 standard cases. With a heavy carryover of 2,746,000 standard cases for 1969, consumption of canned salmon in the first half is expected to be higher than the corresponding period in 1968.

Demand for salmon is determined by many other factors, however, such as salmon prices, tuna prices, and the relative quantities of both tuna and salmon available in the market. With a less-than-bright prospect for salmon runs in the coming season, the salmon market could resume a firmer tone.

At the present rate of canned tuna production and the present trend of tuna prices, the industry will still be able to dispose of over 60 percent of the beginning storage stocks by mid-1969, even though salmon prices increase a little. This movement would reduce inventories to around 1 million standard cases at the start of the new canning season. Inventories at this level would be about the same as in mid-1968, but much lower than the same period in 1967 (1,669,000 standard cases). Consumption of 80 to 82 million pounds of canned salmon for the first half of 1969 is expected-higher than a year ago but lower than the comparable period in 1967. If canned tuna prices increase by 2 percent and salmon prices remain unchanged, canned salmon consumption may rise above 86 million pounds in the first half of 1969. Salmon consumption appears to be quite responsive to changes in the relative quantities and prices of tuna and salmon.

Table 36. Sources and distribution of U.S. fresh and frozen salmon, 1960-68

Year	Sources				Disposition				
	Landings	Imports	Beginning stock	Total	Exports	Ending stock	Apparent fresh & frozen consumption	U.S. canned pack	Pack as percent of total
	Million pounds[1]								Percent
1960	235.4	15.9	8.8	260.1	3.4	11.1	38.8	206.9	79.5
1961	310.4	14.5	11.1	336.0	1.3	10.6	54.3	269.9	80.3
1962	314.6	11.5	10.6	336.6	1.8	14.0	43.3	277.5	82.4
1963	294.2	10.5	14.0	318.8	5.8	12.0	60.6	240.5	75.4
1964	352.2	10.4	12.0	374.6	26.6	16.6	56.9	274.4	73.3
1965	326.8	9.3	16.7	352.7	12.5	14.1	60.8	265.3	75.2
1966	387.5	9.8	14.1	411.4	23.4	14.6	55.3	318.1	77.3
1967	216.7	10.4	14.6	241.7	22.3	11.7	56.1	151.6	62.7
1968[2]	302.7	11.6	11.7	326.0	19.2	19.8	36.5	250.5	76.8
1969			19.8						

1/ - Round weight.
2/ - Preliminary.

Table 37. Quantity and value of U.S. imports and exports of canned and fresh and frozen salmon, quarterly for 1967 and monthly for 1968

Year	Canned				Fresh and frozen			
	Quantity		Value		Quantity		Value	
	Imports	Exports[1]	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports[2]	Imports	Exports
	Thousand pounds		Thousand dollars		Thousand pounds		Thousand dollars	
1967								
1st quarter	4	6,514	7	4,436	1,025	4,063	720	2,416
2d quarter	57	7,200	46	5,471	2,140	1,290	1,599	743
3d quarter	3	3,035	3	2,575	3,060	6,042	2,363	3,633
4th quarter	48	3,796	36	3,110	2,589	7,517	1,819	5,064
Year	112	20,545	92	15,592	8,814	18,912	6,501	11,856
1968								
January	555	723	360	616	466	795	337	559
February	1,526	542	861	514	464	1,256	364	868
March	360	367	197	307	438	395	351	272
1st quarter	2,441	1,632	1,418	1,437	1,368	2,446	1,052	1,699
April	1,595	148	874	116	145	385	108	235
May	447	453	247	391	448	162	343	107
June	136	562	78	454	678	255	527	155
2d quarter	2,178	1,163	1,199	961	1,271	802	978	497
July	123	158	73	126	1,491	726	1,300	409
August	195	560	111	444	1,617	2,253	1,242	1,175
September	3	519	2	347	1,302	2,685	852	1,591
3d quarter	321	1,237	186	917	4,410	5,664	3,394	3,175
October	3	564	5	373	1,055	3,068	623	1,779
November	9	331	5	240	1,198	2,308	570	1,523
December	4	797	3	662	210	1,944	447	1,401
4th quarter	16	1,692	13	1,288	2,763	7,320	1,640	4,705
Year	4,956	5,724	2,816	4,603	9,812	16,232	7,064	10,076

1/ - Edible weight.
2/ - Dressed weight.

Table 38. U.S. monthly wholesale prices of canned salmon and retail prices of salmon steaks, 1967-69

Month	Wholesale price[1]												Retail price[3]		
	Red (sockeye)			Pink			Chum			King (chinook)			Salmon steaks, frozen		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
	Dollars per case[2]												Cents per lb.		
January	35.50	40.00	40.50	27.50	32.50	29.70	24.50	29.00	27.00	30.50	34.00	34.00	113.5	143.8	175.8
February	35.50	40.00	40.50	27.50	32.50	30.00	24.50	29.00	26.75	30.50	34.00	34.00	112.6	151.8	178.3
March	35.50	40.00	40.63	27.50	32.80	30.00	24.50	29.30	26.50	30.50	34.00	34.00	126.3	146.0	189.5
April	35.50	40.00	41.00	27.50	33.00	30.00	24.50	29.50	26.50	30.50	34.00	34.00	121.3	165.6	187.5
May	35.50	40.00		27.50	33.00		24.50	29.50		30.50	34.00		161.3	159.5	
June	36.20	40.00		27.50	33.00		24.90	29.50		30.50	34.00		122.3	167.6	
July	39.00	40.00		28.38	33.00		24.25	29.50		30.50	34.00		120.8	169.7	
August	39.50	40.70		29.62	32.30		26.00	29.30		30.50	34.00		123.8	160.8	
September	39.50	41.00		30.20	31.00		26.50	28.50		30.50	34.00		123.8	158.8	
October	39.80	41.00		30.90	31.00		27.13	28.13		31.38	34.00		137.3	154.9	
November	39.75	40.50		31.25	30.00		28.00	27.38		34.00	34.00		136.5	163.0	
December	40.00	40.50		31.70	29.75		29.00	27.00		34.00	34.00		136.5	169.6	
Average	37.60	40.31		28.92	31.99		25.76	28.80		31.16	34.00		128.0	159.3	

1/ - Average of the weekly prices reported by Seattle brokers and canners.
2/ - Forty-eight one-pound talls.
3/ - Salmon steaks (frozen) retail prices at New York, N.Y.

CANNED TUNA

REVIEW

Supply--1968

Total supplies of canned tuna in the United States were 464 million pounds, edible weight, in 1968—a gain of 10 million pounds from the year before. Only 35.5 percent of this total was packed from the domestic catch. U.S. tuna canneries are relying more and more on imported raw tuna for their pack. In addition, 14.5 percent of the total was imported in canned form. Total 1968 imports of tuna in all forms were 299 million pounds, edible weight, about 64.5 percent of the total available quantity (tables 43 and 44).

Landings Declined

Tuna landings were 201,000 tons last year. Landings increased somewhat in Puerto Rico and Hawaii but declined on the Pacific Coast, the major area for tuna landings. The net result was a 5-percent decline in total U.S. landings from a year ago. Tuna fishing on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts has gradually declined. Landings for both areas dropped from 7,400 tons in 1963 to less than 1,000 tons in 1968 (table 39).

Although total tuna landings dropped in 1968, some species fared better than others. Catches of skipjack and bluefin tuna were well below those in 1967. Albacore fishing was poor for the fourth consecutive year off California, but record catches were taken off the Oregon Coast. The net result was a 21-percent increase from 1967.

Yellowfin tuna was another species with increased landings. The yellowfin catch of 113,000 tons in 1968 by all countries from the eastern tropical Pacific regulatory area exceeded by 7,000 tons the quota set by the Inter-American Eastern Pacific Tropical Tuna Commission. U.S. vessels caught about 99,800 tons, or 88 percent of the total. The fishing season was closed by the Commission on June 18--9 days earlier than in the previous year. After the closure, many vessels shifted to the eastern Atlantic and found excellent yellowfin fishing off West Africa. Total yellowfin landings (Atlantic and Pacific) in Continental United States and Puerto Rico last year reached a new high of 107,400 tons--34 percent heavier than the total for 1967 (table 39).

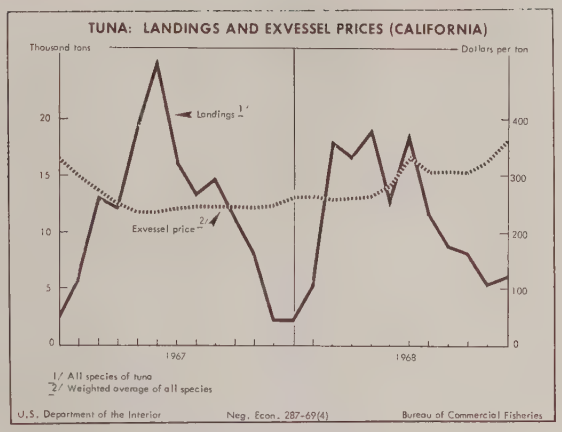


Figure 30

Imported Tuna Increased

After declining in 1967, U.S. imports of raw tuna resumed their upward trend and reached about 161,000 tons (import weight) in 1968. Imports of raw tuna increased 19.4 percent from the previous year. Imports of canned tuna were 67.2 million pounds (product weight)--an increase of 3 percent. Total imports, including foreign landings at American Samoa, reached 299 million pounds, edible weight, in 1968, an increase of 12 percent from the most recent 5-year average (tables 41 and 42).

The total quantity of tuna available in the United States has risen every year since 1951 except in 1963, when it dropped slightly. As domestic landings fluctuated from year to year, imports filled the gaps (figure 6).

Japan was the principal supplier of imported tuna--60 percent of fresh and frozen, 88 percent of canned, and almost all the loins and discs in 1968. Peru was a distant second.

U.S. Tuna Pack Increased

The U.S. tuna pack in 1968 was 397 million pounds, 8 million pounds heavier than the year earlier (table 40). The larger pack in California, Washington, Oregon, and Puerto Rico more than offset the decline in Hawaii and American Samoa. Out of the total 397 million pounds canned, 230 million pounds, or 58.5 percent were packed from imported raw tuna. This 230 million pounds was 13 percent above the 1967 level.

Table 39. Tuna landings, by region, 1960-68

Region/year	Albacore	Bluefin	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Other	Total1/
			Tons2/			
Pacific Coast						
1960	20,101	5,976	23,152	94,654	-	143,883
1961	16,415	10,442	32,701	95,927	-	155,485
1962	22,969	15,600	46,360	62,011	-	146,940
1963	30,394	15,176	48,310	54,792	-	148,672
1964	24,031	11,586	33,029	74,510	-	143,156
1965	18,607	8,010	42,376	79,250	-	148,243
1966	18,486	17,590	25,545	66,306	-	127,926
1967	23,194	6,468	55,326	70,754	-	155,742
1968	27,966p	6,606p	29,742p	76,560p	-	140,874p
Atlantic & Gulf						
1960	-	701	-	-	8	709
1961	-	1,184	-	-	2	1,186
1962	-	3,537	42	19	9	3,607
1963	-	5,006	2,138	228	12	7,384
1964	-	3,220	1,134	138	64	4,556
1965	-	2,337	7	-	136	2,480
1966	-	1,241	43	-	27	1,311
1967	-	2,112	18	-	-	2,130
1968	-	719p	146p	125p	-	990p
Hawaii						
1960	4	648	3,678	178	2	4,510
1961	7	518	5,476	230	1	6,232
1962	8	611	4,708	199	6	5,532
1963	8	474	4,050	192	30	4,754
1964	4	420	4,512	250	18	5,204
1965	4	287	8,078	248	8	8,725
1966	10	381	4,693	252	14	5,349
1967	11	400	4,200	250	45	4,906
1968	15p	250p	4,500p	250p	20p	5,035p
Puerto Rico						
1960	-	-	2,846	7,609	-	10,455
1961	-	-	5,196	10,329	-	15,525
1962	-	838	10,043	3,514	-	14,395
1963	-	1,247	15,227	2,039	-	18,513
1964	-	2,162	15,224	6,811	-	24,197
1965	-	1,173	21,032	5,083	-	27,288
1966	-	643	18,981	12,725	-	32,349
1967	-	680	38,851	9,410	-	48,941
1968	-	-	23,336p	30,494p	-	53,830p
Total U.S. & Puerto Rico						
1960	20,105	7,325	29,676	102,441	10	159,557
1961	16,422	12,144	43,373	106,486	3	178,428
1962	22,977	20,586	61,153	65,743	15	170,474
1963	30,402	21,903	69,725	57,251	42	179,323
1964	24,035	17,388	53,899	81,709	82	177,113
1965	18,611	11,907	71,493	84,581	144	186,736
1966	17,800	19,743	49,481	79,025	23	166,935
1967	23,205	9,660	98,395	80,414	45	211,719
1968	27,981p	7,575p	57,724p	107,429p	20p	200,729p

1/ - Does not include American Samoa. 2/ - Round weight. 3/ - Preliminary.

Table 40. U.S. pack of canned tuna, by region, 1960-68

Year	Pacific Coast: California	Pacific Coast: Washington & Oregon	Pacific Coast: Total	Hawaii and American Samoa	Total Pacific	Puerto Rico	Total3/
			Thousand standard cases1/				
1960	10,715	1,474	12,189	2/	2/	2/	15,306
1961	10,546	1,262	11,808	2/	2/	2/	15,768
1962	10,511	1,471	11,982	2/	2/	2/	17,018
1963	9,075	1,487	10,562	1,430	11,992	3,807	16,556
1964	9,293	1,503	10,796	1,352	12,148	4,845	17,689
1965	9,012	1,761	10,773	1,885	12,658	4,874	18,098
1966	9,613	1,541	11,154	2,713	13,867	5,896	19,954
1967							
1st quarter	1,659	281	1,940	771	2,711	1,138	3,850
2d quarter	2,802	242	3,044	926	3,970	1,456	5,426
3d quarter	2,960	707	3,667	1,274	4,941	1,717	6,658
4th quarter	1,541	279	1,820	387	2,207	1,541	3,748
Year	8,962	1,509	10,471	3,358	13,830	5,852	19,682
1968							
January	187	7	194	183	377	171	548
February	299	25	324	167	491	265	756
March	1,191	131	1,322	153	1,475	308	1,783
1st quarter	1,677	163	1,840	503	2,343	744	3,087
April	944	53	997	265	1,262	477	1,739
May	1,262	143	1,405	259	1,664	706	2,370
June	743	38	781	273	1,054	951	2,005
2d quarter	2,949	234	3,183	797	3,980	2,134	6,114
July	1,110	265	1,375	245	1,620	628	2,248
August	851	275	1,126	336	1,462	773	2,235
September	857	594	1,451	223	1,674	457	2,131
3d quarter	2,818	1,134	3,952	804	4,756	1,858	6,614
October	683	120p	803	195	998	828	1,856
November	519	80p	599	192	791	475	1,266
December	470	50p	520	277	797	364	1,161
4th quarter	1,672	250	1,922	664	2,586	1,667	4,253
Year	9,116	1,782	10,898	2,768	13,666	6,403	20,069

1/ - Various sized cases converted to the equivalent of 48 No. ½ cans to the case.
2/ - Not available.
3/ - Atlantic Coast pack figures are included in the total column.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Demand--1968

Total supplies and, therefore, the consumption of tuna have been increasing 3.6 percent, or 13 million pounds, per year since 1960.

Wholesale price advances were particularly discernible for two popular packs. The white solid pack of private label increased from $13.39 per case in 1967 to $14.05 in 1968; the light chunk pack of advertised brands from $13.71 to $14.24, a rise of 5 percent and 4 percent, respectively (table 46). During January, March, May, and December in 1968, however wholesalers gave allowances on advertised brands of canned tuna. Deals offered $1.00 to $1.40 off on light chunks and $.50 to $1.25 off on white solid.

Exvessel prices of all species of tuna went up in 1968. Unusual large quantities of albacore and bluefin were landed. Skipjack and yellowfin exvessel prices advanced above the level of 1967, but were below the high of 1966. Landings of yellowfin and skipjack were relatively low in 1966 and brought about higher prices. The steady increase in albacore landings, however, did not slow their sharp price advances--$382 per ton in 1966, $397 in 1967, and $425 in 1968 (table 45).

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

An increase in domestic landings and in total supplies is in prospect for the first half of 1969. The quota for the yellowfin catch in the eastern tropical Pacific was raised to 120,000 tons for 1969--14,000 tons higher than 1968. Because of the heavy fishing effort for yellowfin tuna, the season for harvesting closed on April 16, 1969. This early closure was necessary to assure that the quota would not be exceeded.

Imports of fresh and frozen tuna are expected to be about the same as the first half of 1968. Excluding landings by foreign vessels in American Samoa, we expect that about 70 to 73 thousand tons will be imported to the continental United States and Puerto Rico during the first 6 months of 1969. Imports of canned tuna may not increase much over the level of 1968, which was 31.7 million pounds for the first half year.

Demand--1969

Total tuna consumption in the United States has steadily been increasing since 1950. During the last 10 years the growth rate has averaged about 3.7 percent a year. If this rate should continue, about 480 million pounds would be consumed in 1969.

Consumption of tuna in the United States is associated with the changes in personal income, population, and prices of different fishery products. Prices of fishery products other than tuna have been increasing at a faster rate than tuna prices. During 1958-68, deflated wholesale prices of tuna increased about 8 percent; those of all processed fishery products, 11 percent; those of all canned fish and shellfish, 20 percent; and those of canned salmon, a close competitor of tuna, 30 percent.

Fish eaters consumed more tuna as prices of other fishery products advanced relatively higher. As a result, U.S. consumption of tuna has been rising at an annual rate faster than the world production (table 44).

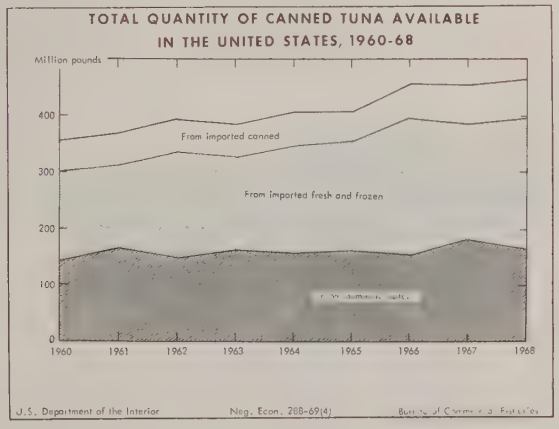


Figure 31

Table 41. U.S. imports of fresh and frozen tuna, annually for 1960-66, quarterly 1967, and monthly 1968

Year	Whole or dressed: Albacore	Whole or dressed: Lightmeat	Whole or dressed: Total	Loins & discs	Total
	Thousand tons				
1960	34.9	82.4	117.3	3.4	120.7
1961	36.0	62.6	98.6	4.2	102.7
1962	42.0	94.3	136.2	5.3	141.5
1963	37.7	77.7	115.4	6.1	121.4
1964	62.5	81.4	143.9	7.5	151.4
1965	67.6	69.5	137.1	6.0	143.2
1966	62.9	90.5	153.4	7.6	161.0
1967					
1st quarter	17.0	15.4	32.4	1.1	33.5
2d quarter	10.2	17.0	27.2	1.5	28.7
3d quarter	22.4	17.5	39.8	.7	40.5
4th quarter	14.2	16.9	31.1	.7	31.7
Year	63.7	66.8	130.5	4.0	134.5
1968					
January	4.2	4.3	8.6	.4	8.9
February	4.3	2.8	7.1	.3	7.5
March	8.8	6.3	15.2	.6	15.8
1st quarter	17.3	13.4	30.7	1.2	31.9
April	4.7	6.8	11.5	.3	11.8
May	4.1	11.2	15.3	.2	15.5
June	4.9	8.0	12.9	.4	13.4
2d quarter	13.8	26.0	39.8	.9	40.7
July	3.3	10.1	13.4	.1	13.5
August	4.6	9.5	14.1	.4	14.5
September	11.2	7.2	18.4	.3	18.
3d quarter	19.1	26.8	45.9	.7	46.
October	7.0	9.8	16.8	.4	17.1
November	4.7	6.3	11.0	.3	11.3
December	4.5	8.4	12.9	.2	13.1
4th quarter	16.2	24.4	40.6	.8	41.4
Year	66.3	90.6	157.0	3.7	160.6

Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
Data do not include landings by foreign vessels in American Samoa.

Table 42. U.S. imports of canned tuna annually for 1960-66, quarterly 1967 and monthly 1968

Year	Brine pack: Japan	Brine pack: All other countries	Brine pack: Total	Oil: All countries	Total canned tuna imports
	Million pounds 1/				
1960	42.6	8.5	51.2	.6	51.8
1961	46.5	11.7	58.2	.4	58.7
1962	47.1	9.2	56.4	.4	56.7
1963	48.3	8.9	57.3	..	57.5
1964	44.5	9.9	54.4	..	54.6
1965	40.7	10.0	50.6	..	51.0
1966	51.5	9.9	61.4	.	61.6
1967					
1st quarter	13.5	1.5	15.0	.1	15.1
2d quarter	9.2	1.6	10.8	2/	10.8
3d quarter	18.2	2.6	20.9	2/	20.9
4th quarter	16.9	1.5	18.4	2/	18.5
Year	57.8	7.3	65.1	.2	65.3
1968					
January	4.6	1.1	5.8	2/	5.8
February	3.9	.7	4.6	2/	4.6
March	4.4	.2	4.6	2/	4.6
1st quarter	13.0	2.0	15.0	2/	15.0
April	5.6	.6	6.2	2/	6.2
May	4.8	.5	5.3	2/	5.3
June	4.5	.7	5.2	2/	5.2
2d quarter	14.9	1.7	16.6	2/	16.7
July	4.6	.9	5.5	2/	5.5
August	4.1	.8	5.0	2/	5.0
September	6.0	.8	6.8	2/	6.8
3d quarter	14.7	2.5	17.3	2/	17.3
October	5.4	.7	6.2	2/	6.2
November	6.0	.7	6.7	2/	6.8
December	4.8	.4	5.3	2/	5.3
4th quarter	16.3	1.8	18.2	2/	18.2
Year	59.0	8.7	67.0	.2	67.2

1/ - Product weight.
2/ - Less than 0,000 pounds.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 43. Available quantity of canned tuna in the U.S. 1960-68

Year	U.S. pack from domestic catch		U.S. pack from imported fresh & frozen tuna		Imported canned		Total Supply
	Million pounds	% of total	Million pounds	% of total	Million pounds	% of total	Million pounds
1960	142.6	40.4	158.8	45.0	51.8	14.6	353.1
1961	163.9	44.4	146.8	39.7	58.7	15.9	369.3
1962	147.6	37.6	187.9	47.9	56.7	14.5	392.2
1963	160.8	41.8	165.9	43.2	57.5	15.0	384.2
1964	154.2	38.1	195.6	48.4	54.6	13.5	404.5
1965	161.5	39.5	196.9	48.1	51.0	12.4	409.4
1966	153.2	33.6	241.0	52.9	61.6	13.5	455.8
1967	183.2	40.4	205.6	45.2	65.3	14.4	454.2
1968	165.0	35.5	232.1	50.0	67.2	14.5	464.2

Note: Quantity in edible weight.

Table 44. World production and U.S. consumption of tuna 1960-68

Year	U.S. total imports of tuna	U.S. consumption	Imports / Consumption	World production 1/	US consumption / World production
	Million pounds 2/		Percent	Million pounds 2/	Percent
1960	211	353	59.6	1,166	30.3
1961	206	369	55.6	1,342	27.5
1962	245	392	62.4	1,353	29.0
1963	223	384	58.2	1,364	28.2
1964	250	405	61.9	1,331	30.4
1965	248	409	60.5	1,320	31.0
1966	302	456	66.4	1,452	31.4
1967	271	454	59.6	1,463	31.0
1968	299	464	64.4	N.A.	-

1/ - Figures are for the Free World, from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
2/ - Edible weight.

Table 45. Monthly exvessel prices for tuna in the United States, 1964-69[1/]

Species/ Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Dollars per ton												
Albacore													
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	312	312	312	312	312	314
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	375	375	375	390	390	390	382
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	390	395	400	400	400	400	397
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	425	425	425	425	425	425	425
1969	-	-	-										
Bluefin													
1964	-	-	-	-	250	250	245	240	240	240	240	240	243
1965	-	-	-	-	-	267	267	260	255	255	271	208	255
1966	-	-	-	-	-	295	262	290	290	306	-	-	246
1967	-	280	270	-	-	235	235	235	237	237	237	237	218
1968	237	-	-	-	-		295	295	291	295	295	295	286
1969	301	-	-										
Skipjack[2/]													
1964	209	211	210	208	209	203	203	203	200	200	200	200	205
1965	200	200	200	205	223	227	226	215	205	205	230	276	218
1966	339	374	364	335	298	280	263	266	276	280	294	293	305
1967	293	265	240	217	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	221
1968	205	257	257	258	260	263	264	265	266	266	266	266	262
1969	268	270	271										
Yellowfin[2/]													
1964	255	257	260	259	259	258	258	258	258	258	258	258	258
1965	270	270	270	275	283	287	287	280	275	275	291	326	282
1966	395	447	419	388	353	335	320	321	332	343	358	358	364
1967	358	319	295	277	265	265	265	265	267	267	267	267	281
1968	267	307	308	308	310	314	314	315	316	316	316	316	309
1969	318	319	322										

1/ - Midpoints of price ranges.
2/ - Premium grade.

Table 46. Monthly prices for imported raw tuna in the United States, 1964-69[1/]

Species/ Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Dollars per ton												
Albacore[2/]	(clipper caught, over 20 lbs.)												
1964	355	350	350	348	340	320	323	328	308	303	295	295	326
1965	305	305	313	318	310	310	316	315	330	N.A.	423	430	334
1966	515	530	503	510	510	510	495	463	475	500	500	500	501
1967	500r	438	449r	405	405	433	480	472	472r	467r	461r	439	451
1968	453	450	452	468	465	459	449	447	448	462	457	461	456
1969	460	460											
Yellowfin[2/]	(g&g, 20-100 lbs.)[3/]												
1964	335	325	330	325	323	323	308	313	303	308	306	N.A.	318
1965	325	313	309	310	310	311	314	315	315	N.A.	413	418	332
1966	480	523	498	485	455	435	435	413	418	450	460	448	458
1967	450r	395	414r	353	360	402	402	382	388	388	406	N.A.	388
1968	407	398	396	380	372	373	368	360	372	372	369	371	378
1969	367	366											

N.A. - Not available.
1/ - Midpoints of price ranges used.
2/ - Prices quoted are f.o.b. Japan, based on sales made to California canners. Prices c.i.f. West Coast about $50 higher.
3/ - For equivalent round weight price of gilled and gutted (g&g) yellowfin, divide by factor of 1.11.
r - Revised.

Table 47. Monthly U.S. canned tuna wholesale prices, 1965-69

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Dollars per case												
*Wholesale - Advertised brands													
White solid (No. ½ - 7 oz. 48's)													
1965	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13
1966	16.00	16.00	17.75	17.75	16.63	16.63	16.63	16.63	16.62	16.67	16.68	16.88	16.74
1967	16.88	16.88	16.88	16.49	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.35	16.35	16.37
1968	16.35	16.34	16.35	16.35	16.60	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	17.65	16.72
1969	17.85	17.85	17.85	18.05									
Light chunk (No. ½ - 6½ oz. 48's)													
1965	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50
1966	14.25	14.25	15.85	15.85	14.63	14.63	14.40	14.15	14.15	14.15	14.15	14.15	14.55
1967	14.51	14.15	14.15	13.83	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.75	13.56	13.71
1968	13.50	13.50	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.75	14.24
1969	14.85	14.85	14.85	14.85									
*Wholesale - Private label													
White solid (No. ½ - 7 oz. 48 s)													
1965	12.88	12.63	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.50	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.61
1966	12.63	12.63	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.37	14.37	14.37	13.75	14.12
1967	13.75	13.70	13.70	13.50	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.39
1968	13.25	13.25	13.85	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.05
1969	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25									
Light chunk (No. ½ - 6½ oz. 48's)													
1965	9.63	9.63	9.50	9.38	9.50	9.63	9.63	9.63	9.63	9.63	9.63	9.63	9.59
1966	10.75	10.25	13.85	13.85	12.75	12.75	12.00	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.94	12.00	12.12
1967	12.00	11.99	11.95	11.65	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	10.75	10.75	11.43
1968	10.75	10.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.58
1969	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75									

*Quotes do not include trade or promotional allowances

Table 48. Monthly U.S. canned tuna import and retail prices, 1965-69

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
					Dollars per case								
Imported (brine pack)													
White solid (No. ½ - 7 oz. 48's)													
1965	12.88	12.63	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.50	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.61
1966	12.63	13.63	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.17
1967	14.38	14.38	14.38	14.38	13.64	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.90	13.40	14.16	14.16	13.71
1968	14.12	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	14.56	14.01
1969	14.41	14.41	14.41	14.47									
Light solid (No. ½ - 7 oz. 48's)													
1965	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.19
1966	10.75	10.75	14.00	14.00	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	13.54
1967	14.12	14.12	14.12	14.12	12.26	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.71	11.18	11.18	11.95
1968	11.15	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.39	11.06
1969	11.27	11.27	11.27	11.32									
					Cents per can								
Retail													
Light chunk (6 - 6½ oz. cans)[1/]													
1965	32.4	32.2	32.0	31.8	31.8	31.9	31.9	32.2	32.2	32.1	31.8	31.9	32.0
1966	32.2	32.9	34.2	34.9	36.2	36.3	36.4	36.4	36.3	35.7	35.8	36.1	35.3
1967	35.9	35.5	35.5	35.3	35.2	35.1	34.6	34.3	34.2	34.4	34.4	34.4	34.9
1968	34.3	34.2	33.7	33.8	34.5	34.7	34.6	34.9	34.9	34.9	34.8	35.0	34.5
1969	35.1	35.4	35.1										

1/ Average retail price in leading cities in United States as collected and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 49 . Sources and disposition of canned sardines, annually 1950-67

Year	Sources				Disposition			
	Production[1]	Imports[2]	Beginning stocks[3]	Total	Ending stocks[3]	Exports	Apparent consumption	
							Total	Per capita
	Million pounds[4]							- Pounds -
1950	306.2	32.5	N.A.	338.7	N.A.	102.3	236.4	1.56
1951	168.1	29.3	"	197.4	N.A.	126.6	70.8	.46
1952	87.4	31.0	"	118.4	"	39.9	78.5	.50
1953	68.0	57.3	"	125.3	"	10.0	115.3	.73
1954	128.9	45.2		174.1		117.2	156.9	.97
1955	93.4	30.8	"	124.2	16.4	46.6	61.2	.37
1956	86.2	29.0	16.4	131.6	25.0	39.6	67.0	.40
1957	74.3	34.5	25.0	133.8	31.5	15.3	87.0	.51
1958	149.1	39.2	31.5	219.8	27.2	18.5	174.1	1.00
1959	75.0	32.8	27.2	135.0	24.3	38.7	71.0	.40
1960	74.5	38.0	25.3	137.8	29.6	21.2	87.0	.48
1961	36.5	53.6	29.6	119.7	8.0	7.6	104.1	.57
1962	56.1	65.1	8.0	129.2	32.0	7.8	89.4	.48
1963	40.5	50.1	32.0	122.6	31.1	3.7	87.8	.47
1964	25.7	53.7	31.1	110.5	18.3	3.3	88.9	.46
1965	30.0	53.0	18.3	101.3	18.5	3.4	79.4	.41
1966	31.2	67.3	18.5	117.0	13.8	3.6	99.6	.51
1967	29.3	61.9	13.8	105.0	13.2	1.4	90.4	.46
1968	39.8p	58.9p	13.2p	111.9p	23.4p	3.0p	85.5p	.43p

1/ - Includes Maine and Pacific pack.
2/ - Includes some canned sea herring.
3/ - Canners and distributors stocks of Maine sardines.
4/ - Product weight.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.
p - Preliminary.

CANNED SARDINES

REVIEW

Supply-1968

About 69.7 million pounds of sea herring were landed in Maine last year. They were used principally in the canning of sardines. In recent years, imported fresh sea herring from Canada has been used for canned sardines. Pacific sea herring are not used in sardine packs but entirely in the processing of fish meal and oil or as bait.

Sea Herring Landings and Imports Increased in Maine Last Year

Landings of 69.7 million pounds, round weight, in Maine last year were 5 million pounds over 1967, more than 11 million pounds over 1966, and higher by 8 percent over the most recent 5-year average. However, compared with the earlier 5-year period, 1959-63, when landings were plentiful, 1968 landings were 45 percent lower (table 51).

Imports of sea herring from Canada in 1968 were up about a third from 1967. In 1968, sardines were packed from domestic and imported sea herring in almost equal quantities.

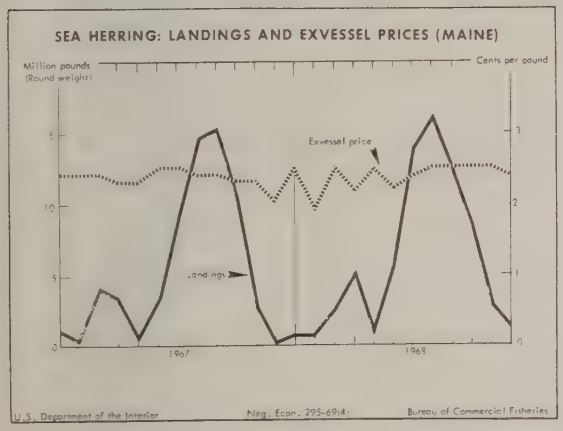


Figure 32

Sardine Pack Increased in Maine

The total production of canned sardines in the United States was 39.8 million pounds in 1968--an increase of 36 percent over the previous year and 27 percent over the latest 5-year average (table 53). The increase of sardine pack in Maine more than offset the decline in the Pacific pack.

Imports Increased

Nearly 59 million pounds of canned sardines were imported in 1968--12.4 percent greater than the previous year and 10 percent greater than the 5-year average (table 50). Sardines canned in oil were imported primarily from Norway--about 15.7 million pounds in 1968. The nonoil canned sardines were almost entirely from South Africa, which sent to the United States about 25 million pounds out of a total of 30 million pounds imported.

Imports of canned sardines accounted for only one-fourth of the 124.2 million pounds available in 1955, but expanded to 60 percent by 1968. Imports have been increasing on an average of about 2 million pounds, product weight, a year.

Holdings Built Up in the Second Half

A carryover of 23.4 million pounds of canned sardines at the start of 1969 was 10 million pounds greater than that of the previous year, and 4.5 million pounds above the 1963-67 average. Stocks started to build up in the third quarter 1968 when both pack and imports were seasonally high. Even though sales were brisk in the third and fourth quarters, stocks remained high (table 50).

Demand--1968

Exports Continue at Low Level

Although exports of canned sardines (3 million pounds) in 1968 were double the amount of the previous year, they were close to the average of the last 5 years. Exports in 1968 were only a tenth of the volume exported in the late 1950's (table 50).

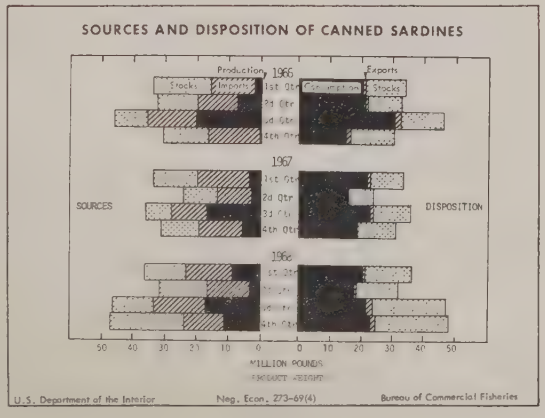


Figure 33

Consumption Up Slightly

Total consumption of canned sardines in 1968 was 85.5 million pounds, about the same as the average of the last 5 years although about 5 million pounds more than 1967. The total quantity available last year was higher than any of the previous 5 years. Per capita consumption of canned sardines, however, was actually lower than the early 1960's (tables 49 and 50).

Prices Up

Both wholesale and retail prices increased last year. The monthly average wholesale price of canned Maine sardines was $12.25 per standard case in 1968--6 percent higher than the year before. On the retail level, prices increased from 15.1 cents per can (4 oz.) in 1967, to 16.1 cents in 1968--a rise of 7 percent (table 55). The relatively heavy production did not weaken prices.

Dockside prices of sea herring in Maine were about the same as in 1967 (table 55). The increase in landings and the influx of imported fresh sea herring kept prices on a par with 1967.

OUTLOOK

Supply--First Half of 1969

Landings and Pack

During the last 4 years, the sardine pack showed some signs of recovery after a sharp decline in 1964. However, the recovery appears to be uncertain in view of the fact that none of the previous upswings in landings since 1950 was sustained. The long-run trend since 1955 is downward at an average of 5.6 million pounds a year. Each succeeding drop has been lower than the previous one. The downward trend suggests the possibility of a pack of 34 to 36 million pounds in 1969, and around 10 million pounds in the first half of 1969.

Imports on the Upswing

Import trend in the past points to continued increase in 1969. Imports of canned sardines fluctuate widely from year to year, but the trend has been upward at the average rate of 2.2 million pounds a year since 1955. It is likely that imports will reach between 30 and 32 million pounds the first half of this year, slightly higher than a year ago.

Demand--First Half of 1969

Sales--The Same as Last Year at the Best

Consumption of canned sardines is estimated at about 82 million pounds this year, 3 million pounds lower than a year ago. High prices will be a factor contributing to the reduction of sales. Sales of about 40 million pounds are estimated for the first half of this year.

Maine Sardine Campaign

The above consumption estimates may have to be revised upward during the course of the year. Maine sardines are being promoted heavily from March through May of this year. They were placed on the USDA List of Foods in Plentiful Supply for May. Marketing specialists from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the USDA staff are joining in efforts to disseminate educational material on Maine sardines, as well as product samples, to various media including magazines, newspapers, radio programs, farm shows, cookery demonstrations, and others.

Table 50 . Sources and disposition of canned sardines, monthly 1968-69

Year	Sources				Disposition			
	Production[1]	Imports[2]	Beginning stocks[3]	Total	Ending stocks[3]	Exports	Apparent consumption	
							Total	Per capita
	Million pounds[4]							Pounds
1968								
January	-	4.1				.1		
February	2.1	4.2				.3		
March	6.1	6.9				.1		
1st quarter	8.2	15.3	13.2	36.7	15.5	.5	20.7	.104
April	1.4	2.7				*		
May	.1	6.1				.2		
June	1.9	4.6				*		
2d quarter	3.4	13.4	15.4	32.2	13.6	.2	18.4	.092
July	3.7	5.5				.2		
August	6.1	5.8				.4		
September	7.3	5.5				.8		
3d quarter	17.2	16.7	13.6	47.5	23.4	1.4	22.7	.113
October	-	5.4				.5		
November	11.0	3.8				.3		
December	-	4.3				.1		
4th quarter	11.0	13.4	23.4	47.8	23.4	1.0	23.4	.117
Year	39.8p	58.9p	13.2p	111.9p	23.4p	3.0p	85.5p	.426p
1969								
January	-	1.8				*		
February	1.0	1.5				*		
March	1.2	5.8				*		
1st quarter	2.2	9.1	23.4	34.7		.1		

1/ - Includes Maine and Pacific pack.
2/ - Includes some canned sea herring.
3/ - Canners and distributors stocks of Maine sardines.
4/ - Product weight.
p - Preliminary.
* - Less than 50,000 pounds.
Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 51. Sardine landings in California and sea herring landings in Maine, 1950-1968

Year	California sardines	Maine sea herring
	Million pounds, round weight	
1950	619.5	185.5
1951	328.9	59.7
1952	14.3	144.7
1953	9.5	100.6
1954	136.5	123.6
1955	145.6	99.4
1956	69.6	140.5
1957	45.9	153.6
1958	207.4	171.0
1959	74.4	117.2
1960	57.5	152.3
1961	43.2	54.5
1962	15.4	156.7
1963	7.1	152.3
1964	13.0	60.9
1965	1.9	70.2
1966	0.9	58.3
1967	.1	64.6
1968	.1	69.7

Table 52. Monthly landings of sea herring in Maine, 1966-1969

Year	1966	1967	1968	1969
	Million pounds 1/			
January	.2	1.1	.7	
February	1.5	.3	.7	
March	.9	4.0	2.5	
1st quarter	2.6	5.4	3.8	
April	.7	3.3	5.0	
May	.4	.4	.9	
June	5.5	3.3	5.7	
2d quarter	6.7	6.9	11.6	
July	11.5	9.0	13.8	
August	15.9	14.7	16.1	
September	9.3	15.4	12.1	
3d quarter	36.7	39.1	41.9	
October	7.6	10.4	8.3	
November	3.4	2.7	2.7	
December	1.3	.1	1.4	
4th quarter	12.3	13.2	12.4	
Year	58.3	64.6	69.7	

1/ - Round weight.

Table 53. U.S. production of canned sardines, 1950-1968

Year	Atlantic Maine	Pacific	Total
	Million pounds[1/]		
1950	90.0	216.2	306.2
1951	39.2	128.9	168.2
1952	82.6	4.8	87.4
1953	65.1	2.9	68.0
1954	68.7	60.2	128.9
1955	29.7	63.7	93.3
1956	52.2	34.0	86.2
1957	51.9	22.4	74.3
1958	49.1	100.0	149.1
1959	41.0	34.0	75.0
1960	46.7	27.7	74.5
1961	17.6	18.9	36.5
1962	50.2	6.2	56.4
1963	37.9	2.6	40.5
1964	20.3	5.4	25.7
1965	29.6	.4	30.0
1966	31.1	.1	31.2
1967	29.3	2/	29.3
1968	39.8	2/	39.8

1/ - Product weight.
2/ - Amount negligible.

Table 54. Supply of canned sardines obtained from domestic pack and imports, 1957-68

Year	U.S. pack[1/]	Imports[2/]	Total
	Million pounds[3/]		
1957	74.3	34.5	108.8
1958	149.2	39.2	188.3
1959	75.0	32.8	107.7
1960	74.5	38.0	112.4
1961	39.5	53.6	90.1
1962	56.4	65.1	121.5
1963	40.5	50.1	90.5
1964	25.7	53.7	79.4
1965	30.0	53.1	83.0
1966	31.2	67.3	98.5
1967	29.3	61.9	91.2
1968	39.8	58.9p	98.7p
	Percent of total		
1957	68.3	31.7	100.0
1958	79.2	20.8	100.0
1959	69.6	30.4	100.0
1960	66.2	33.8	100.0
1961	40.5	59.5	100.0
1962	46.4	53.6	100.0
1963	44.7	55.3	100.0
1964	32.4	67.6	100.0
1965	36.2	63.8	100.0
1966	31.7	68.3	100.0
1967	32.1	67.9	100.0
1968	40.3	59.7	100.0

1/ Includes the pack of Maine and Pacific sardines. Pacific sardine packs for 1967 and 1968 were negligible.
2/ Includes sea herring.
3/ Product weight.

Table 55. Monthly exvessel, wholesale and retail prices of sardines 1966-69

Prices/ Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year average
							Cents per pound 1/						
Exvessel price (Maine area)													
1966	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.3	1.6	2.1	1.9
1967	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.5
1968	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4p
1969													
							Dollars per case 2/						
Wholesale price													
1966	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10.50
1967	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	12.00	12.25	12.25	12.25	11.56
1968	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25
1969	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25									
							Cents per can 3/						
Retail price (BLS)													
1966	13.9	14.0	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.6	14.7	14.2
1967	15.3	15.0	15.1	15.3	15.0	14.9	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.1
1968	15.8	16.0	15.8	15.8	16.0	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.1
1969	16.3	16.5	16.4										

1/ Round weight.
2/ 100 - 1/4-lb. cans per case. New York prices taken on Monday or Tuesday of the week in which the 3rd day of the month falls.
3/ U.S. average price per 4-oz. can in leading U.S. cities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PURCHASES OF FOOD FISH

Military procurement of fish products in 1968 was nearly 41 million pounds--a drop of 6 million pounds from the previous year. Per capita military use was about 11.4 pounds in 1968, slightly higher than the per capita civilian consumption of 11.0 pounds. Purchase of shellfish delicacies increased but not enough to offset the decline in food fish procurement.

The Department of Defense purchased about 13.2 million pounds of fresh and frozen finfish products, valued at $5 million (table 56). This amount was 30 percent below 1967. Canned food fish purchases also declined--from 14.9 million pounds valued at $8.2 million in 1967 to 12.1 million pounds valued at $7.3 million in 1968, a drop of almost 20 percent in quantity (table 57).

Table 56. Quantity and average price of principal fresh and frozen finfish products purchased by the Department of Defense, annually for 1963-66 and quarterly for 1967-68

Year	Cod fillets	Flounder fillets	Ocean perch fillets	Haddock fillets	Haddock portions	Halibut steaks	Total
	Million pounds						
1963	0.7	3.0	3.8	2.1	-	1.4	10.9
1964	0.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8	1.3	11.0
1965	0.5	2.9	3.6	1.5	1.9	1.4	11.8
1966	0.3	3.0	3.8	1.7	4.4	1.2	14.4
1967							
1st quarter	1/	0.6	0.9	0.3	1.3	0.4	3.5
2d quarter	0.1	1.0	1.2	0.5	2.3	0.5	5.6
3d quarter	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	2.8
4th quarter	1/	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.1	1.9
Year	0.2	2.8	3.3	1.5	4.7	1.3	13.8
1968							
1st quarter	1/	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.2	2.0
2d quarter	0.1	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.3	3.8
3d quarter	1/	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.2	2.7
4th quarter	1/	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.1
Year	0.1	2.5	3.2	0.7	2.5	0.8	9.8
	Dollars per pound						
1963	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1964	0.32	0.30	0.29	0.32	0.47	0.41	0.30
1965	0.35	0.37	0.32	0.37	0.46	0.55	0.39
1966	0.39	0.43	0.37	0.40	0.50	0.57	0.44
1967							
1st quarter	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.34	0.44	0.50	0.41
2d quarter	0.37	0.40	0.36	0.37	0.40	0.42	0.39
3d quarter	0.37	0.38	0.32	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.39
4th quarter	0.36	0.37	0.25	0.40	0.40	0.44	0.37
Year	0.37	0.40	0.32	0.38	0.42	0.45	0.39
1968							
1st quarter	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.41	0.44	0.43	0.39
2d quarter	0.35	0.43	0.35	0.41	0.35	0.43	0.39
3d quarter	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.42	0.35	0.42	0.38
4th quarter	0.35	0.39	0.34	0.47	0.42	0.48	0.41
Year	0.35	0.40	0.33	0.43	0.39	0.44	0.39

1/ Less than 50,000 pounds.

Table 57. Quantities and average price of canned finfish products purchased by the Department of Defense, annually for 1963-66 and quarterly for 1967-68

Year	Tuna	Salmon	Sardines	Total
	-- Million pounds ---			
1963	4.4	2.2	0.5	7.1
1964	5.7	2.8	0.3	8.8
1965	9.0	4.8	1.0	14.8
1966	6.0	6.0	0.9	12.9
1967				
1st quarter	1.8	-	0.3	2.1
2d quarter	5.9	-	2.1	8.0
3d quarter	1.1	0.6	0.2	1.9
4th quarter	1.5	1.3	0.1	2.9
Year	10.3	2.0	2.7	15.0
1968				
1st quarter	1.3	-	1.0	2.3
2d quarter	3.2	-	1.4	4.6
3d quarter	1.8	-	0.3	2.1
4th quarter	2.9	-	0.1	3.0
Year	9.2	-	2.9	12.1
	Dollars per pound			
1963	0.46	0.60	0.40	0.50
1964	0.44	0.59	0.58	0.49
1965	0.45	0.63	0.43	0.51
1966	0.55	0.67	0.51	0.58
1967				
1st quarter	0.59	0.84	0.32	0.58
2d quarter	0.48	-	0.49	0.49
3d quarter	0.52	0.59	0.65	0.59
4th quarter	0.50	0.76	0.64	0.64
Year	0.52	0.73	0.53	0.59
1968				
1st quarter	0.54	-	0.52	0.53
2d quarter	0.50	-	0.49	0.50
3d quarter	1.08	-	0.50	0.99
4th quarter	0.54	-	0.51	0.54
Year	0.63	-	0.50	0.60

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